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22 December Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2212143588 [Editorial Report]

Terrorism

Anonymous callers told the AP and UPI offices in London that the "Guardians of the Islamic Revolution" were responsible for the crash of a U.S. airliner in Scotland, asserting that this "heroic execution" was in revenge for the shooting down of an Iranian airliner in the Gulf several months ago, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported.

However, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi categorically denied any Iranian involvement in the crash, according to IRNA.

In Israel, THE JERUSALEM POST cited an Italian press report that the head of the Syrian secret service was personally involved in running two PFLP-GC terrorist networks that were recently apprehended in the FRG and Sweden.

Equipment seized from these groups included barometric detonators, which are used to set off explosions in aircraft, the report added.

The UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD claimed that the U.S. State Department has received information indicating the possibility of "Israeli terrorist acts against the United States," Abu Dhabi radio reported.

Citing a "responsible source" in the State Department, the paper stated that a Jewish group is planning to attack the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem.

Israel

New Government—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir presented his new government to the Knesset 22 December in a speech broadcast by Jerusalem radio, affirming that a national unity government is needed to combat the "propaganda and political offensive of the terrorist organizations" aimed at establishing a Palestinian state inside "Eretz Yisra'el."

Contending that there is "no room or logical reason for a second Arab state inside Eretz Yisra'el," Shamir asserted that the way to solve the problem of "Eretz Yisra'el Arabs" lies in the Camp David agreements.

He called on Jordan's King Husayn to immediately begin negotiations with Israel, together with representatives of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip Arabs.

Shamir also promised to increase settlement activity, maintaining that there is a national consensus on "the sacred right of Jews to live anywhere in Eretz Yisra'el."

The prime minister urged the United States to reconsider its decision to start a dialogue with the PLO.

On the composition of the new government, Shamir disclosed that it will include ministers from SHAS and the National Religious Party, and that Agudat Yisra'el has also decided "in principle" to join.

He read out the names of 24 ministers, including 11 each from the Likud and the Alignment, noting that several additional appointments will be made soon.

Shamir and Alignment leader Shim'on Peres had earlier signed the coalition agreement after it was approved by the Labor Party Central Committee, according to Jerusalem radio.

The radio noted that the inner councils of the new government will contain: a "political-defense cabinet" of 12 Likud and Alignment ministers; a "political forum" comprising Shamir, Peres, Yitzhaq Rabin, and Moshe Arens; and an "economic forum" of Shamir, Peres, and two other ministers.

Territories Violence—Seven Arabs were wounded in clashes with IDF soldiers in West Bank areas 21 December, Jerusalem radio reported.

Meanwhile, an IDF soldier died in a London hospital of wounds sustained 2 months ago in the Molotov cocktail attack on a bus near Jericho, the radio disclosed.

PLO Affairs

The Likud-Alignment coalition agreement is "an agreement for war, not for peace," PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat asserted at a Belgrade press conference reported by MENA.

The PLO leader warned that Israel is preparing for a large scale military operation in southern Lebanon, in addition to its "major and grave escalation against the uprising."

He claimed that Israel is planning new assassination operations against Palestinian leaders.

'Arafat also confirmed that the Palestinian leadership is currently discussing the formation of a provisional government.

Sources in Amman cited by the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD stated that the provisional government will not be headed by 'Arafat himself, but by Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department.

In another development, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio broadcast "Call No 31" by the "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising," specifying further protest activities in the occupied territories during Christmas and the first week of January.

Sudan

A National Security Council has been formed due to "security problems and waves of migration resulting in a breakdown in social discipline," National Unity Radio reported.

The Council is composed of the prime minister, the defense, foreign, interior, and justice ministers, and a counselor for national security.

The defense minister confirmed that supporters of former President Numayri were arrested in connection with the recent abortive coup attempt, SUNA reported.

An official Sudanese statement cited by MENA noted that 25 civilians and military men have been arrested.

Egypt

Internal Situation—The Interior Minister announced that the security services are keeping a close watch on "extremist" leaders at home and abroad and are working on "completely destroying" the "hotbeds" from which they launch their attacks on national security, MENA reported.

He said the 'Ayn Shams area of Cairo has been "cleansed" of criminal elements.

Arab Relations—President Husni Mubarak told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in an interview reported by MENA that there has been no direct contact between Syria and Egypt, but that he will welcome Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad if he wishes to meet in Cairo.

He said any lower-level dialogue would not be productive.

As for relations with Libya, he said Egypt has halted its media campaign but the Libyans are "determined to follow their old ways," so any further movement is "up to them."

Afghanistan

The mujahidin shot down a military aircraft near Gardeyz, killing approximately 25 people, Islamabad radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Peace, Palestinian State, Israel

AU2112111188 Vienna KURIER in German
21 Dec 88 p 5

["Exclusive" interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Heinz Nussbaumer in Vienna on 20 December: "Peace Is More Important to Israel Than to Us"]

[Text] KURIER: The dialogue between the PLO and the United States was started 1 week ago. What does this mean to you?

'Arafat: No doubt, this is a completely new and very important period—and it is taking the right direction.

However, we should not forget: We already had this dialogue with the United States 13 years ago, at that time in Morocco, until Kissinger arbitrarily broke off contact and announced his conditions.

Yet, you know, I often said what Washington wanted to hear from us even before Geneva. That is the way it is. Now the United States suddenly wants to hear my words.

KURIER: Now the point is to win over the Israelis. How can this be achieved?

'Arafat: I make appeals, appeals, appeals—admittedly, without success so far. They do not want to.

However, sooner or later they will have to realize that peace is maybe more important to them than to us. Of course, even today there are strong Israeli groups who think differently and with whom I get along. But the government...

KURIER: ...Yesterday a grand coalition was again formed in Israel. Is this a government of peace?

'Arafat: This is, permit me to speak candidly, an obstacle to peace. This means a standstill, paralysis. Have you read what the Labor Party is doing now all of a sudden: It forgets its own election platform overnight and, together with Shamir, will again build new Jewish villages in the occupied territories.

This is a drama: As long as we cannot change the mentality of the Israeli leaders, nothing will change. Why do these men not see that this is a historical chance for them? Must there again be war? Who needs that?

The next Middle East war will be a disaster for everyone. How long can the world watch when one plays around with the fate of an entire region, even of a whole world, because of foolishness? Who will help us to stop this madness?

KURIER: Politicians must be able to also understand the opponent's interests and fears. Are you able to understand the Israelis?

'Arafat: Yes, I think so. It is easier than one believes: A whole generation of Israelis heard from their political leaders only lies about us Palestinians. A whole generation grew up with a lie and is today caught in this lie. They are the victims of their own propaganda.

It is tragic: They have always wanted to get away from the ghettos—and now they are building in Israel a new ghetto for Jews. Look at the radicals who take their seats in the Israeli Parliament and what these people are preaching.

Yet it is so simple: One can survive in the Middle East only if one wants to be part of the Middle East. My, our vision is clear, but not that of the Israelis—this is their weakness.

KURIER: Let us talk about your vision of a state: Here a part of the Gaza Strip, there a part of the West Bank, Israel in between—is this your real vision?

'Arafat: Yes, but there is, of course, a corridor between them. Without the corridor, there is no state. If Israel is not willing—okay, then we will establish a joint state of Jews and Palestinians. This has always been our offer.

KURIER: And your vision of Jerusalem?

'Arafat: This is perfectly clear: Arab Jerusalem is Arab! But apart from that: certainly an open city. Access to all holy places, freedom of religion, freedom of movement. Everything else would be nonsense.

KURIER: And your vision of the form of the Palestinian state: a small state or a federation with Jordan?

'Arafat: I was elected because of my political program. It says: a confederation with Jordan. This has been clear for all since 1983.

KURIER: Back again to the latest events: Who really were the silent mediators who broke the ice between the PLO and the Americans?

'Arafat: The Swedes. The Egyptians. Saudi Arabia. Other Arabs. Many have helped us in the past few years, also Austrians—but you know that.

KURIER: Say it again—which of them?

'Arafat: Think of Kreisky's vision. Many did not want to believe his words, and today everybody knows how right he was. Kreisky is probably unique in the world.

However, we also do not forget Kurt Waldheim. As UN secretary general, he made lasting contributions to the Middle East peace process. Therefore, this is now my request: Austrians, we also need you in the future!

Yasir 'Arafat Holds News Conference in SFRY

NC2112151588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Belgrade, 21 Dec (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has described the agreement between Israel's Likud and Labor parties to form a broad-based Israeli government as an agreement for war, not for peace.

He said: We must take note of the Israeli reactions to our endeavors for peace. These reactions are based on continued intransigence, the building of settlements, and the rejection of an international conference for peace in the Middle East, as well as the rejection of the Palestinian state and negotiations with the PLO.

Speaking at a news conference held today in Belgrade at the end of his visit, Yasir 'Arafat warned that Israel is now preparing for a large scale military operation in southern Lebanon, in addition to its major and grave escalation against the uprising in the occupied territories.

He noted here the massacre perpetrated by the Israeli forces in Nabulus last Friday, the day when the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue began. He said Israel will be doing all it can to wreck the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue through acts of sabotage to be carried out by the Mosad.

He also noted that Israel will launch new assassination operations against the Palestinian leaders.

'Arafat, who is scheduled to leave Belgrade later today, called on world public opinion to shoulder its moral and political responsibility toward peace in the Middle East and to work with the Palestinian side to revive the peace process in the region. He stressed the PLO plan to achieve peace is a strategic one.

Regarding the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue which began recently, 'Arafat stressed it is constructive, beneficial, and important for the peace process in the Middle East. He added this is not the first such dialogue, referring here to a Palestinian-U.S. dialogue in 1975.

Regarding the Arab position, he said the Arab foreign ministers will meet on 3 January to discuss two issues.

The first concerns the situation in Lebanon and the second concerns the peace issue and the gains achieved by the Palestinians through the uprising at the international diplomatic level.

He added: We have decided, in an agreement with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi at the recent meeting of the Arab League Council in Geneva held during the UN General Assembly session, to reactivate the work of the seven-member committee on the Palestinian issue.

Yasir 'Arafat said at the news conference that 88 countries so far have recognized the Palestinian state, whose establishment was declared on 15 November at the conclusion of the PNC session in Algeria.

Regarding the provisional Palestinian government, he said its formation is under discussion now in light of the PNC resolution to form a provisional government consisting of figures from inside and outside the occupied territories. He added that the PLO Executive Committee is now undertaking the tasks of the provisional government.

Asked how he could differentiate between terrorism and struggle, 'Arafat said:

I have fully denounced [shajabtu] terrorism and underlined this in the Cairo Declaration and in my speech in Geneva before the UN General Assembly in which I referred to two important points, the first of which is the UN General Assembly resolution on terrorism which notes the peoples' right to resist colonialism and occupation through all means and differentiates between terrorism and struggle and resistance to occupation.

Regarding the extent of the conformity of the Palestinian and Arab strategy with the concepts and stands in the European countries he has visited so far, particularly Yugoslavia, 'Arafat said: We are in constant touch with Yugoslavia.

He noted that the Palestinian and Yugoslav views on all issues are identical, particularly with regard to the future action and the development of the Nonaligned Movement.

As to the other countries, 'Arafat said: We have found a substantial identity and understanding, particularly as regards giving impetus to the peace process in the Middle East.

Concerning the opening of a Palestinian embassy in Yugoslavia, 'Arafat said at the conclusion of his news conference: This is not a problem between us and our Yugoslav friends. They will take the official measures to open an embassy as soon as we inform them.

It is recalled that Yasir 'Arafat held a second and long round of talks with the Yugoslav president this morning.

'Arafat on 'Terrorists' in Germany, Peace Moves

JN2112180788 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Dec 88 pp 1, 2

[Mahfuz al-Ansari article: "Peace Opportunities, 'Arafat, and a Working Luncheon"

[Excerpts] We once heard about an international prize for the passenger with the most flight hours in 1 year. We believe the contest is still open, but it is certain that the indisputable true winner has not proceeded to receive the prize and obtain the "patent" of championship.

The champion we mean is Yasir 'Arafat, who used the plane as a place of residence, a bedroom, a reception lounge, a means of arrival "and escape from sight," and a channel for contacts and meetings.

In part of 'Arafat's continuous air travel, his plane landed Sunday morning in Cairo for a meeting with President Mubarak and his aides. For 'Arafat, "the Egyptian station" is central. [passage omitted]

Before 'Arafat's departure, Dr Usamah al-Baz had arranged a meeting for him with chief editors of newspapers and a number of writers around "a working luncheon" for political conversation and questions. [passage omitted]

Perhaps for the first time, 'Arafat disclosed that on 26 November, the German [not further specified] Government arrested a group of terrorists that had received weapons from "an Arab embassy" in Germany to carry out an operation aganst a selected target in Europe so that the PLO and the Palestinians might be labeled terrorists. As he told the story, 'Arafat had the full confessions of the terrorist group.

The Palestinian leader did not rule out the possibility of Israel launching a major military operation against southern Lebanon, up to the Nahr al-Awwali, to divert attention from the peace process and its course and take the region or the question to a new turning point.

'Arafat stressed that he is not afraid of peace with its challenges and threats. He does not fear negotiations with Israel right now, in or out of the international conference, for the Palestinian territories are not held or occupied by ghosts, but by another party that is a partner to the peace process and a party to a war if it wants to be.

Yasir 'Arafat realizes the importance of a preparatory conference. He thinks that so far, three out of five [Security Council permanent member states] agree to this preparatory conference. These are: France, the USSR, and the PRC. The United States and Britain have yet to agree. Contacts among the five countries are under way to reach a general agreement.

'Arafat also analyzed the stands of the countries—apart from Israel—that oppose the U.S. decision [to open dialogue with the PLO]. Coldly, without emotional outburst, 'Arafat told why some parties are bargaining over the owners of the Palestine question.

He said he understands very well the reasons for the Iranian attack on and opposition to the PLO stand.

He said: The Iranians are now settling their scores with me. They did not and will never forget our position in defense of the Arab land and the Iraqi Arab soil.

'Arafat did not rule out another round of talks with the current U.S. Administration, perhaps within the framework of contacts that do not receive much media attention.

This round of talks, on a level to be agreed upon, will be held before 20 January, the day when George Bush and his administration take over power. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Reveals 'Official' 1975 U.S-PLO Talks

LD2112230588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1830 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Belgrade, Dec 21 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced here today the Palestinian provisional government "will be declared soon and may be so soon.

'Arafat, who arrived here yesterday from Vienna, told press reporters the provisional government is undergoing finishing touches.

The Palestinian government, a step that was endorsed by the latest session of the Palestine National Council, will comprise Palestinian personalities from in and outside the occupied territories in addition to independent figures, he said.

The government, 'Arafat added, may include as well a portfolio for Islamic, Christian and Jewish affairs.

'Arafat warned against an increasing Israeli spate of repression and terrorism against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and urged the world public opinion to put pressure on Israel to change its internationally-condemned policies.

The Palestinian leader hailed the ongoing Gulf summit's role in backing joint Arab efforts and the Palestinian question in particular.

He disclosed that an official PLO-U.S. meeting took place in Morocco in 1975, in which Khalid al-Hassan and martyr Majid Abu Sharar represented the PLO, and Vernon Walters, current U.S. representative to the U.N., represented the U.S.

Qaddumi Said 'Most Likely' To Head Government

JN2112151788 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Dec 88 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] AL-ITTIHAD has learned from informed sources in Amman that preparations are under way to form a Palestinian provisional government, which will not be headed by the PLO chairman.

It seems that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, is the person most likely to head the government, especially since its mission will be to conduct diplomatic contacts with other countries and enlarge the circle of international recognition of the Palestinian state after a number of countries, including France and Japan, have announced that their recognition of the Palestinian state is conditional on the formation of a Palestinian government. [passage omitted]

'Abd Rabbuh Critical of Direct Talks With Israel

NC2112160188 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, today said the international conference for Middle East peace is the only course for the Palestinians and that as such it should be the main topic of discussion between the PLO and the United States.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, who led the PLO delegation to the talks with the U.S. ambassador to Tunis last Friday, criticized the U.S. position which insists on direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Palestinian official said the PLO intends to form a provisional government for the Palestinian state in the next 2 or 3 months in the framework of preparations for an international conference, noting that such a move should enhance the Palestinian state's chances of gaining recognition.

PLO's Hurani Welcomes Dialogue With U.S.

LD2112133988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Central Committee, has welcomed the idea of holding more meetings with the U.S. side within the framework of the bilateral dialogue with a view to bringing about peace in the Middle East.

The Palestinian official also expressed his belief that both the Palestinian and U.S. sides have the desire to continue the dialogue to acquaint themselves with the ideas and viewpoints concerning the means to resolve the Palestinian issue in accordance with international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

He also indicated that the U.S. side in the dialogue expressed its belief that the next meeting could be held after the new U.S. Administration takes over in January.

However, he added that the possibility of contacts and consultations with the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, Robert Pelletreau, could materialize at any time.

He went on to say that the PLO had rated positively the results of the first meeting in the dialogue and that the second meeting would be a continuation of the process to enable the two sides to get to know each other, clarify their positions, and present their viewpoints with more accuracy.

Fatah's Al-Hasan on Future Palestinian Strategy

JN2112173188 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 20 Dec 88 p 19

[By Raja Talib]

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan, alias Abu al-Sa'id, has affirmed that political circumstances are ripe for forming the provisional Palestinian government after the Palestinian state has become an observer state in the United Nations.

In an exclusive interview with AL-WATAN, Al-Hasan said that a provisional government is now essential. Thus, the European Parliament decided Monday to deal with the PLO Executive Committee as a provisional government until the Palestinian provisional government is established.

He clarified that this is precisely the PNC resolution that entrusted the Executive Committee with the duties of a provisional government until the latter is formed.

Al-Hasan indicated that the formation of the government is now basically waiting for Palestinian jurists to finish the basic structure of this government, which will be formed once the structure has been set.

He said it was likely that the structure will be completed by the end of next February.

On future Palestinian steps within the framework of the Palestinian political thrust, Abu al-Sa'id said that our political steps will take a number of forms. The first of these is to work toward intensifying diplomatic contacts with the world's countries and attempt to win more political recognitions of our independent state.

We will also work toward elevating the level of cooperation with the PLO offices and elevate their level of representation in some of the countries that recognized the state in accordance with the latest United Nations resolution, through which the State of Palestine became an observer state in the international organization instead of a liberation organization.

The second form will be to increase the Executive Committee chairman's and Palestinian leadership's political visits to world countries, especially in the West.

He indicated that Yasir 'Arafat will visit Spain, Italy, and France to speed up holding an international conference.

Al-Hasan clarified that the third form of the coming step in the Palestinian political thrust will be the PLO's attempts to draw up a Palestinian and Arab political plan for joint action on an international level to unify the international political concept on a political settlement in the Middle East, especially concerning the subject of an international peace conference, its form, and its details.

The Palestinian official affirmed that continuation of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will be the fourth form of the plan for Palestinian political thrust.

He expected the dialogue with the U.S. side to be real, effective, and serious after Bush takes over the new administration in the United States next February.

Al-Hasan described Peres' statement indicating his readiness to negotiate with any Palestinian who wants peace an expression of the Israeli Government's political failure.

He said such a statement affirms that Peres wants to hide his incompetence in the face of the direct Palestinian peace challenge. He also wants to hide his inability to declare his acceptance of the PLO as a basic participant in the peace process in the region.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas on Provisional Government
JN2112200688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (INA)—A senior Palestinian official has voiced the appreciation of Palestine—people, leadership, and factions—for the principled Iraqi stands and Palestine's respect for the farsightedness, wisdom, and prudence of the Iraqi leadership in tackling the nation's causes and dealing with the development of these causes.

In an interview with INA's Cairo bureau, Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member, said that Iraq's hosting of the Palestinian leadership and its support for the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative create distance from the attempts at containment, hegemony, and blackmail. He added that the PLO constantly consults with the brothers in the Iraqi leadership.

Mahmud 'Abbas condemned the Syrian regime and said this regime has from the beginning been hostile to the Palestinian cause and has also sought from the beginning to play the card of this cause.

He affirmed: "We refuse to see any country hold our independent national decisionmaking hostage. However, we abide by the Arab decisions and consensus and place our card in the hands of the Arab nation."

Abu Mazin spoke of the Egyptian-Palestinian talks, which will begin tomorrow, and said:

"We will exchange opinions on issues pertaining to the formation of a provisional Palestinian government and the convening of an international conference. We will also hold consultations on the coming steps which will follow the phase of the proclamation of the Palestinian state. Moreover, we will study the results of the Geneva deliberations and of the first round of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue."

Mahmud 'Abbas also touched on the steps that have been taken in the process of forming the Palestinian government and said:

"The PLO has entrusted a committee of experts with the task of drawing up different formulas and options regarding the formation of the government—formulas and options regarding the relationship between the government and the PLO Executive Committee, the levels of this relationship, the political and administrative issues to be tackled by the government, and the method of choosing its members from inside and outside the occupied territories."

Abu Mazin announced that a four-member subcommittee emanating from the PLO Executive Committee comprising Mahmud 'Abbas, Jamal al-Surani, 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and 'Abdallah Hurani is holding meetings with the committee of experts to reach the final formula for the government's form to pave the way for submitting this formula to the PLO Executive Committee.

The Palestinian official spoke of the dialogue with the United States and pointed out that the first meeting was confined to a presentation, by each side, of its opinions and stands and added that no analytical discussion of the content of these opinions was held.

The PLO Executive Committee member paid tribute to the development of the European stand toward the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and referred to the recent EC vote in Geneva in favor of a draft resolution calling for the convening of the international conference. He also referred to the fact that the EC had asked Spain, France, and Greece to contact all parties concerned and prepare for the convening of that conference.

Mahmud 'Abbas added: "We are waiting for the three states to launch a European initiative and to contact us so we can consult with them on the most suitable formulas for convening the conference and enforcing solutions."

Abu Mazin rejected the Zionist conditions and stands regarding the termination of the uprising and said:

"We categorically reject this issue. The uprising, which has been staged against the occupation, will continue as long as the the occupation of the Palestinian territory is maintained."

Mahmud 'Abbas stressed the unity and cohesion of the stands of the Palestinian factions and said:

"Despite our intellectual, ideological, and political differences as organizations, we are unanimous on the sole national objective—namely, the future of the Palestinian people."

Committees Issue 'Uprising' Call No 31

JN2112114188 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Dec 88

["Most important points" of Call No 31 issued by the "popular and national committees of the uprising"]

[Text] Christmas days, 25 December and 7 January, shall be considered days in which special prayers will be held and church bells will toll to protest Zionist repression and tyranny.

The days of 24 December and 6 January shall be considered days of national mourning as an expression of rejecting occupation and any Zionist participation in the celebrations of Christmas. During these 2 days, special visits shall be paid to martyrs' families. Meanwhile, shops will remain open all day during 24 December and 5 January to enable our Christian sons to buy what they need.

The day of 28 December shall be declared a day of a comprehensive strike in challange against curfew and to stage mammoth popular demonstrations.

Demonstrations shall be continued and reinforced on Sundays and Fridays from mosques and churches.

Struggle against the occupation's loyalists and agents shall be bolstered to prevent them from continuing on the path of treason.

The day of 8 January shall be declared a day of a comprehensive strike for preserving the memory of the uprising's martyrs and on the occasion of the uprising ending its 12th month.

The day of 9 January 1989, the martyr day, shall be a day for sacrifices as a gesture to confirm rallying around the popular and national committees of the uprising and as an expression of rejecting occupation.

The popular and national committees urge the masses of the uprising to implement their militant program and to reinforce the achievements of the uprising. The committees stress the need to abide by the following:

1. To continue the system of national work in all trade, educational, industrial, and professional fields through abiding by the national timing regarding opening of shops from 0800 to 1200.

The committees also appeal to all our people's sectors to abide fully by the days of the comprehensive strike. The strike forces will deal with any violation of the national program of the uprising.

2. Intensifying the efforts of doctors and lawyers to expose the Zionist forces' crimes in hospitals and clinics and their violation of international charters and norms.

3. The local and foreign news media, journalists, and news agencies should intensify their coverage of the true situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, expose the repressive Zionist measures, and put the world in the picture of the Palestinian national struggle.

4. Increasing interest in national agriculture through taking care of farmers and extending collective aid to peasants to enable them to exploit their land and to entrench the boycott of Zionist products.

Egypt

Jewish Groups Planning 'Actions' Against U.S.

NC2212110288 Cairo MENA in English 1035 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec. 22 (MENA)—The U.S. State Department received information to the effect that terrorist actions will be carried out by Jewish groups against the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem and U.S. diplomats. State Department sources said a report to this effect was sent by the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem.

"AL-ITTIHAD" newspaper published here said the State Department received similar reports from security missions abroad.

This is the first time an official report refers to possibilities of perpetrating Israeli terrorist operations against the U.S.

MENA Interviews Mubarak on Arab Issues

NC2112181088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has called for mobilizing the Arab nation's efforts to push forward the peace process. He also called for a dialogue with and a rational approach toward the U.S. Administration, the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. public.

In an interview he granted to 'Uthman al-'Umayr, editor in chief of the AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper, and Jamal 'Anayat, director of the newspaper's office in Cairo, President Mubarak said:

For our part, we are making efforts with the new U.S. Administration, and so are the Kingdoms of Saudi Arabia and Jordan. He explained that those who want to sabotage these efforts want to wreck the peace process. There are forces in Israel who want to deal a blow to peace. Some Palestinian factions also want the same thing to happen.

President Mubarak, however, explained that there are peace-loving forces whose number is increasing. We must help these forces until peace reigns in the region.

President Mubarak expressed the hope that the year 1989 will be the year of peace if the Palestinian factions show commitment and unite during the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. He said that the Arab nation has a feeling for this situation, and everyone is working on it.

Discussing Egyptian-Syrian relations, President Mubarak said that there have been Egyptian-Syrian contacts through His Majesty King Husayn, but he denied that bilateral meetings have been held.

He explained that for its part, Egypt has halted the media campaigns, but nothing more has happened. I once offered to go to Damascus, but President Hafiz al-Asad declined. Therefore, I say: You come, you will be welcomed.

Regarding Egyptian-Iraqi relations, President Mubarak said: I have very good relations with President Saddam Husayn dating from even before we resumed relations. Mubarak described these relations as extremely excellent.

On the possibility of convening an Arab summit next year, President Mubarak said: If it is convened, we will welcome it. He explained that Egypt does not impose itself on anyone. Egypt exists, and it never shirks its Arab obligations. Egypt stands on the side of all the Arab states, including Syria, but with logic and reason.

I do not lag behind in supporting all my brothers in the Arab nation, including the Syrians and the Libyans. I am 100 percent with every step toward peace.

Regarding Egyptian-Libyan relations, President Mubarak said: We have halted the media campaigns. We have no interest in attacking anyone, even if we are attacked. All I hope is for the situation to calm down, and I do not want more than goodneighborliness.

Regarding the Lebanese issue, President Mubarak declared: We support Lebanon's territorial unity, and we are against partition.

He denied that there are Egyptian-Iranian contacts at present. He lauded the achievements of the GCC states, saying: We are with them, and we support them.

Concerning the economic situation in Egypt and the financial investment companies, President Mubarak denied the existence of the so-called blessed lists [kushuf al-barakah].

He also denied the existence of a file in his office containing certain names. He stressed that everything is in the hands of the public prosecutor. Mubarak stressed he does not interfere in the investigations.

On the march of democracy in Egypt, President Mubarak explained that he does not pay attention to peripheral issues at the expense of the main goal, namely reforming the economy and raising the citizens' standard of living. Democracy, he said, is strong and irreversible.

Concluding his interview, President Mubarak called on the Arabs on the occasion of the new year to unite and cooperate and to forget their differences.

He said we must all have a unity of ideas and of opinions toward crucial issues. The new year must be a year of love, cooperation, and optimism, and all nations must meet in amity and brotherhood.

The following is the text of President Husni Mubarak's interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT:

[Question] These days, the start of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is to the fore of Arab and international attention. Observers have given several explanations for the motives that led to the U.S. decision on this dialogue. In your view, what are the most important motives?

[Mubarak] You have followed the moves of brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in the recent past. We began with a tripartite meeting in Al-'Aqabah between King Husayn, Abu 'Ammar, and me. We had a discussion of the issue until the atmosphere between the two leaders improved and the stalemate ended. Afterwards, the PNC met and passed its resolutions.

I then contacted brother Abu 'Ammar and emphasized the need for them to take a step forward so that we could boost the peace process. This was an effort in which our brothers in Saudi Arabia, foremost of whom is my brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, shared. Then the issue of Abu 'Ammar's speech and the U.S. refusal to grant him an entry visa arose. This forced him to go to Geneva to deliver his speech. Despite this, the United States did not respond.

A group of Arab countries exerted efforts to resolve this issue. When we found that the process had reached a critical point, I contacted the U.S. secretary of state and told him: The situation is unreasonable. You know the efforts that had been exerted toward Abu 'Ammar's speech and we reached understanding with all parties. Why do you not support the moderate Arab countries?

It is unreasonable that we remain alone in the arena. Your friends in the Arab region are dissatisfied with this situation. I do not want to mention them and they all talk to you. I demanded that he accept the situation and said: Read Abu 'Ammar's speech. Read the Swedish foreign minister's speech and his comment on 'Arafat's speech, which outlined the three points, "acceptance of UN resolutions, recognition of Israel, and renunciation of terrorism."

Therefore, you must help your friends in the region. Thus, the decision to begin a dialogue between the United States and the PLO was made, thank God. We consider it a unified Arab effort. All sides made efforts in Geneva. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Kuwaiti foreign minister, and everyone exerted efforts at the United Nations.

[Question] Let us assume that the United States had refused to begin a dialogue with the PLO. What would you have thought about such a situation?

[Mubarak] It would have been a difficult problem. We, as Arabs, must have our stand and the other Arab parties must work with Egypt. We must agree among ourselves and talk with the United States, because this issue does not concern Egypt alone, but the entire Arab nation of which Egypt is a part. As an Arab nation, we must consult and talk to see what we can do.

Thank God the dialogue has begun, and I hope that our Palestinian brothers, especially the various groups, will not make haphazard statements without observing the text, because this is extremely important. They must be careful about making statements so that Israel will not use them against the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

This is very important. I want to say that what has happened is an important turning point. From 1974 until now there was no contact between the United States and the PLO. Since this has taken place, the Palestinians must be careful about their statements.

[Question] Does Your Excellency see the possibility that some elements might try to wreck the dialogue?

[Mubarak] I am confident that Abu 'Ammar cares deeply about this dialogue. Whoever wants to do this wrecking, whether Palestinian or non-Palestinian, wants to sabotage the peace process. There is a force in Israel which wants to deal a blow to peace. Some Palestinian groups also want the same thing to happen, but if we want to retrieve the land, resolve the issue, and stabilize the situation in the region, then caution is a duty.

[Question] What is your comment on the Israeli reaction to the Palestinian declaration?

[Mubarak] That was natural. The Israeli prime minister does not want to resolve the situation and does not want the international conference.

[Question] Can there be a dialogue then?

[Mubarak] When the entire world public opinion stands against them, then the time must come when they will move. Israel is an existing state. The Palestinian want their lands according to the 1967 borders. [Words indistinct] with Resolution 181 of 1947, this resolution which is considered Israel's birth certificate, and they cannot be ignored because they are present on that basis.

Hence, what is required is an Israeli state and a Palestinian one. When the Palestinians talked to me about this issue of the state, I told them that the borders of this state must be defined; otherwise, this would mean giving the Israelis the pretext to say: They want to seize our borders. Hence, the thinking revolved around the 1967 borders—and no one can reject the borders—and then establishing a confederation with Jordan.

[Question] Do you think that the mentality that governs Israel can be changed?

[Mubarak] It must be. The peace-loving forces are increasing, and we must help these forces until peace prevails in our region.

[Question] What is your present concept of future action by Egypt or the Arab group that is cooperating with it?

[Mubarak] We cannot separate Egypt, as a state, from the Arab group. We are all acting, consulting, and debating with each other and with our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and all other countries. We want to underline the dialogue and maintain it so as to reach one way of dealing with Israel. We have contacts with Israel, the United States, and Europe. We must act so as to entrench the conviction that an international conference must be held which will lead to direct negotiations.

Some rejected the international conference at the beginning because of the Soviet Union. Now, following the rapprochement between the two super-powers and the Israelis' contacts with the Soviets, I believe that there is no problem of holding the international conference. Neither Israel nor anyone else should fear this conference. We must put the cards on the table and start the dialogue.

Then the international conference will be held and will lead to direct negotiations. Here lies our role as Arabs with the PLO, with Israel, and with the United States. We must urge the Israelis to show flexibility and make the Palestinians respond so as to reach a solution.

[Question] Could the formation of a provisional government lead to a development in the Israeli position?

[Mubarak] That is an international issue. Whether the Palestinian state is established on the basis of Resolution 181 and the 1967 borders, or on the basis of Resolution 181, or on the basis of the provisional government is entirely in brother Abu 'Ammar's hands. What is important is to establish the state and choose the delegation to the negotiations.

[Question] How does your excellency envisage the U.S. role and the new U.S. Administration's stand toward these developments? Do you have assurances from the current administration in this regard?

[Mubarak] We cannot say we will get assurances. The matter requires a dialogue and a rational approach toward the U.S. Administration, the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. public. It also requires all our efforts as an Arab nation. For our part, we are making efforts with the new U.S. Administration, and so are the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

The matter requires contacts and discussions until a strong public opinion is formed within the Jewish and American societies and in the Congress through press and television interviews, and so that we can keep pace with events. I think there is a good public opinion now which we must maintain and support.

[Question] How does Your Excellency envisage joint Arab coordination and its character in the coming stage?

[Mubarak] We continue to coordinate with the Arab parties.

[Question] Is there a possibility that other Arab parties will join, such as Syria?

[Mubarak] No one has prevented Syria from coordinating, but Syria has a stand toward the PLO and Abu 'Ammar. Syria refuses to negotiate with the PLO. I do not want to discuss this subject. However, Syria is a party to the negotiations, and it is welcomed.

[Question] It has been reiteraed that there have been Egyptian-Syrian contacts.

[Mubarak] Through His Majesty King Husayn, but we have not arrived at anything.

[Question] On what level have these contacts been held?

[Mubarak] King Husayn was in Syria, and we spoke on the subject of Egyptian-Syrian relations. I told him: Welcome. I had previously extended my hand to President Hafiz al-Asad [during the Arab summit in Kuwait], but he entered the hall and attacked us. Nevertheless, I did not adopt any stand.

[Question] It has been reiterated that there have been private meetings. Some refer to Dr Usamah al-Baz' moves in this connection.

[Mubarak] All this is untrue. Dr Usamah al-Baz was in Bahrain and he stopped over in Jeddah on his way back to Cairo.

[Question] Therefore, there is nothing new so far in Egyptian-Syrian relations?

[Mubarak] Following a communication he had with the Syrians, His Majesty King Husayn contacted me regarding a halt to media campaigns. We halted them and nothing more has happened. No meetings have been held between us. And what are these meetings for?

The question is clear: Whoever wants to mend relations, we welcome him. I stretched my hand and was ready to go to Damascus, but they did not answer.

[Question] Are you still prepared to go now?

[Mubarak] I offered this once. Now the situation is different. He is a head of state, and I am a head of state. I hold all respect and esteem for him and he holds all respect and esteem for me. I offered to go once, but he declined.

Therefore, I say: You come and you will be welcomed. Is not this logical? Everyone has dignity. My dignity is from my country's dignity and his dignity is from his country's dignity. Any lower-level dialogue will not produce anything. What I offered was clear.

They used to talk about the joint Arab defense pact, which I am ready to implement and indeed did implement despite the fact that no party complied with all its articles. The pact includes 13 articles and is called the joint Arab defense and economic cooperation pact. It provides for first resolving conflicts through peaceful means.

Afterwards, the countries hold consultations, committees of the chiefs of staff meet, and the defense and foreign ministers meet and make their decisions. They must cooperate to implement their decisions.

These days, to say let us fight is toying with the peoples' resources. The word fight is simple, but it means devastation. Millions could be displaced or lost, bloodshed incurred, and people would not find food or be able to live. A ruler must take care of his people and not let them be dragged into a pit that might lead to their destruction.

God gave us minds and the faculties to think, and our responsibility is to raise the standard of living of our people. When we fight, it is for our dignity and to reach peace, which would also lead to the promotion of the standard of living.

[Question] Mr President, we know that you do not like press rumors.

(Mubarak smiles)

[Mubarak] Go ahead.

[Question] It was reported that President Saddam Husayn's sudden visit to Egypt was prompted by contacts between Syria and Egypt.

[Mubarak] President Saddam Husayn and I were linked by very good relations even before diplomatic ties were reestablished. You may note that I visited Iraq during the war before diplomatic ties had been reestablished. Diplomatic ties among Arab countries are only a formal procedure. Contacts always take place between presidents.

My relations with President Saddam Husayn are very excellent. I have visited him three times, and there are no sensitivities between us. President Saddam Hysayn told me that he would visit Cairo at the first available opportunity. I was meeting with a Sudanese delegation when I was informed that President Husayn was at the airport. His deputy was supposed to come. I immediately went to the airport to meet with him. I was happy to see him. We met as brothers and went for a tour of the city, and then he returned home.

[Question] There are different points of view on the extent to which the start of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue may get the settlement process moving. What is especially being raised is Israel's intransigence. Do you think that the views can be brought closer together and that are the means of influence to effect a change?

[Mubarak] We will make use of our ties with the Israelis to serve the Palestinian issue. The forces of peace encourage this. The European countries and the United States wield some influence. When the Arabs concert their efforts in this area. I believe it will bring about influence.

[Question] Mr President, can we consider 1989 to be the year of peace?

[Mubarak] I hope with all my heart that it will be the year of peace. If the Palestinian parties are committed and united during the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and with the help of all the Arab countries and the efforts we are exerting in Europe and the United States, then I believe that the dialogue could bear fruit.

[Question] Is there what we can call an Arab plan to achieve the desired progress?

[Mubarak] The entire Arab nation has a sense of this stand. Hence they are all working. We all know the aim, and there is flexibility in the action. We all agree on the international conference. There are goals and there is guaranteed freedom of action to reach these goals.

[Question] Also on that, how will Egypt act at the Arab level in 1989, particularly given the possibility that an Arab summit might be held? Do you think that the summit will be held soon?

[Mubarak] We welcome the summit if it is held. We are calling for the Arab summit to be held periodically as is the case in the OAU. The African leaders must meet once a year on a definite date. When a meeting was once held in Libya and it failed, they decided to meet in Addis Ababa. This periodic meeting in itself brings great benefits for solving any dispute that can erupt between any two countries during the year, and then things go back to normal again. We as Arabs need such periodic meetings to resolve our disputes to the benefit of all the Arab countries.

[Question] Do you prefer the meeting to be on a particular issue?

[Mubarak] Any Arab meeting is beneficial.

[Question] But can a meeting be effective now without Egypt?

[Mubarak] Egypt does not impose itself on anyone. It exists and does not shirk its obligations at all. Egypt supports all the Arab countries, even Syria, but with logic

and reason. We do not disregard our reason. Each country has its own interests, and Egypt backs any Arab country and confronts any situation.

Egypt has supported Iraq in its war despite the absence of relations because Arab brotherhood dictates that Egypt should take this stand. I am saying that Egypt supports any Arab country facing a tight situation, not in the sense of entering a war along with it but by supporting it politically, providing it with equipment, and mobilizing international support for it.

[Question] Your Excellency, Egypt's participation enjoys Arab blessing. Mr President, perhaps you might have read, like I did, what King Hassan said when he proposed that you attend the Arab summit without even waiting for an invitation from anyone?

[Mubarak] King Hassan is a very dear brother and friend. His statement is appropriate. But I tell him that my dignity is that of my country though we are all brothers. I do not want to embarrass anyone. But I do not lag behind all my brothers in the Arab nation, and I extend my hand to all of them, including Syria and Libya. But there must be a basis for coordination. I cannot subject the Egyptian people to dangers.

We got fed up with war for more than 30 years and hence I support every step forward toward peace 100 percent. People want to achieve their basic needs, such as food and clothes, and to live a quiet life away from wars and the shedding of blood.

[Question] If you allow me, we will come back again to the issue of Egyptian-Arab relations. Before I came to meet Your Excellency, you were meeting with the Ethiopian prime minister. What was the nature of the talks he held with you? The Ethiopian prime minister was scheduled to meet President Mubarak for 1 hour, but the meeting lasted 2 hours.

[Mubarak] There are now good relations between Egypt and Ethiopia, and these have overcome the period of stagnation that lasted for a long time. We have an understanding with them on the issues of Somalia and Sudan. The meetings have borne positive results, and they and Sudan are now moving within the framework of the agreement.

A joint communique was discussed in Khartoum. The aim of all this is to end the war in south [Sudan] and resolve the problems with Eritrea. There is no need for the various powers to act frivolously here and there. We want stability in the region, and I believe that there is a great improvement in the situation.

[Question] Have you discussed the Red Sea security?

[Mubarak] I cannot talk about this subject right now. This topic concerns all the Red Sea littoral nations, and we cannot discuss it in public before we consult with other Arab countries, listen to their views, and form a policy in the light of the constructive views that are expressed.

[Question] Have you reached any solutions concerning the distribution of the Nile water among the Nile Valley nations?

[Murabak] This question is settled and there have been no disputes over it. The Nile Valley agreement defines every country's share in the Nile water.

[Question] Some papers have mentioned that differences arose over this issue!

[Mubarak] There is no such a thing, and we do not want to stir up problems out of nothing.

[Question] This leads us to the issue of Sudan. How do you evaluate Egyptian-Sudanese ties? Have these ties reached the stage of stability?

[Mubarak] Egyptian-Sudanese ties are ones of fraternity, common history, and common destiny. We cooperate as much as we can. We support the Sudanese and have no interests in favoring one Sudanese side over another.

[Question] There are certain moves in Sudan and contacts from certain countries.

[Mubarak] We are alert to these moves and understand them well. We do not worry, and we do not get worked up. If you mean Libya, we do not bother about these things.

[Question] Then you have strong relations with all the Sudanese parties?

[Mubarak] All of them. A delegation from the Sudanese Communist Party visited me lately.

[Question] Your Excellency has mentioned Libya. How far have Egypt's relations with its neighbor Libya gone?

[Mubarak] The issue of Egyptian-Libyan relations depends on the Libyans themselves and on how they act. We have halted media campaigns. We have no interest in maligning anyone, even if they malign us. At the latest science and arts conference in Jordan, the Libyan delegate wanted to attack us. However, I say to them: Whenever you have good intentions, you will be welcome.

Some time ago, the Libyans asked permission for some of their planes to fly across Egyptian airspace. I granted permission, but this was interpreted as if our airspace was opened, and this is not true. We agree on the passage of certain flights in our airspace, but we will only open the airspace when we can be sure about their intentions and when the relations between us have improved.

All I want is a calmer atmosphere and simple neighborliness. We want relations based on non-interference in internal affairs and respect for the state. This we welcome. Anything other than that we do not want.

[Question] There has been a remarkable improvement in Egyptian-Arab relations. Is there any hope that a similar improvement will take place in your relations with Libya?

[Mubarak] Ask the Libyans. They are determined to follow their old ways. At any rate, we have shown good will. If they are not interested, it is up to them.

[Question] Do you see the permission to let Libyan planes pass through as the beginning of appeasement?

[Mubarak] I have given similar permissions in the past, on one, two, or maybe three occasions.

[Question] How about the rights of the Egyptian workers who were working in Libya? Was there a need for intervention by an international organization?

[Mubarak] They do not want to give the workers their due or to negotiate with us. Hence, negotiations had to take place through the ILO.

[Question] Mr President, we have noticed that an official of the Egyptian Embassy in Lebanon met with General Michel 'Awn. Lebanese muslims interpreted this as Egyptian support for the military government.

[Mubarak] Egypt's view is clear. It supports Lebanon's territorial unity. Egypt's view is not different from the Lebanese people's view. The Lebanese, however, differ among each other and until they choose a single government, there is nothing to prevent us from contacting all parties. As for recognition, we did not say anything. All we want is to be a calming factor. We hope that the forces which have entered Lebanon as occupation forces will leave. The Lebanese are capable of solving their problems.

[Question] It is being said that there is a kind of Egyptian-Syrian understanding on Lebanon.

[Mubarak] This is not true at all. We support Lebanon's territorial unity, and we are against partition. We are against the presence of occupation forces in Lebanon. Our stand is clear and unchangeable.

[Question] What about the role of Egypt, the biggest Arab country, in Lebanon?

[Mubarak] There is no need to talk about the Egyptian role. We have our own way of solving the problem, and I will not add anything more. This does not mean that we are working against Syria or others. We do not work against anyone. We do not seek controversy. We only want to reconcile the parties.

[Question] Does Your Excellency believe that Iraq's intervention in the Lebanese issue benefits it?

[Mubarak] This is Iraq's business. I do not comment on this subject.

[Question] From Libya to Lebanon to Iran. Is there a possibility of a development in Egyptian-Iranian relations in light of recent events?

[Mubarak] This depends on the outcome of the peace talks with Iraq. We and Iraq are closely following up on the situation. We have had lengthy experience with Iran. The Iranian charge d'affaires used to contact and finance the fundamentalist groups. We expelled him.

Nevertheless, there are no differences between us and the Iranian people. But I want to see that peace has actually started and that the Iranians can reach a common understanding with iraq.

[Question] Are there Egyptian-Iranian contacts at present?

[Mubarak] Not at all. Had there been contacts, I would have told you frankly. Do not believe anything else you hear. It is true we have no contacts with Iran at present.

[Question] The GCC summit is being held in Manama. How do you envisage Egypt's relations with the Gulf?

[Mubarak] Egypt's relations with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the other Gulf countries are very old, not new. The fraternal Gulf states have a specific character that helps to achieve high-level cooperation. I am really happy about this experiment. This fraternal group has achieved good results from its cooperation. We are with it, and we support it.

[Question] Some people draw a parallel between the capital investment companies and what is currently taking place with what I will call the extremists, and not fundamentalist groups.

[Mubarak] Yes, because if you say the fundamentalist groups, you would offend our tolerant Islamic religion. Islam is a religion of love.

[Question] What is your analysis of what is happening to these companies?

[Mubarak] I do not support this method of investment. These companies used to pay a high interest rate of 20 percent. Many people were happy with this and asked the government to keep away. They did not think of the risk involved in dealing with such companies, which surfaced later on. The prosecution is currently investigating the case. The companies that will correct their transactions will continue, but within the framework of the law.

We are currently focusing on the depositors' funds in the companies that have failed, so as to correct their situation. The depositors have indeed made a mistake, but we are trying to find a solution for them.

Regarding the relationship between these companies and the radical groups, perhaps there are contacts between them, or perhaps these companies tried to encourage them. We let this issue go until it had reached its climax. Before that, it was likely that some people might not believe us, particularly the depositors who used to get a 20-percent interest rate, if we took action against these companies. When we realized that the situation was collapsing we interceded by enacting and applying laws.

[Question] But to what extent will the law be applied?

[Mubarak] It will be completely applied right to the end.

[Question] We have heard that a prominent personality dealt with these companies.

[Mubarak] These are rumors and attempts to offend. When I heard this talk, I asked the prosecution about it, and it transpired that the rumors were groundless. Perhaps certain proprietors of these companies resorted to this method to confuse the people. They called them the blessed lists. I looked for these lists and found nothing. Generally speaking, the issue is in the hands of the investigation authorities, and no deviant will be covered up or protected.

[Question] This takes us to Egyptian-Arab economic relations. How does Your Excellency assess the progress made in these ties, particularly in what concerns Arab investment?

[Mubarak] Progress is being made slowly but steadily. We are amending our investment laws. We will have a unified law for investment so as to remove the obstacles and get things going. The aim is to encourage more companies to set up business in Egypt.

[Question] Mr President, you have been in power for 7 years. How do you evaluate the democracy which you started in the country, despite attempts by some to obstruct its course and criticize it?

[Mubarak] I take no notice of side issues. I prefer to concentrate on the main goal; namely, to reform the economy and improve the living conditions of the people. Our democracy has come of age and there is no going back on it. Anything else is marginal for me. We have to consolidate stability and security in Egypt for the sake of investment. There is unprecedented freedom and democracy in Egypt, and any claim to the contrary is groundless.

[Question] Let us go back to the issue of economic development in Egypt. How do you view the obstacles affecting the course of economic progress in Egypt, and how do you plan to overcome them?

[Mubarak] Let me ask you what you think these obstacles are.

[Question] It is said, for instance, that the productivity of Egyptian labor is extremely low.

[Mubarak] Actually, the productivity of the Egyptian worker is better now than at any other time before. The productivity of factory workers has particularly improved, and they are making significant achievements in the workplace.

[Question] How about cooperation among the various institutions?

[Mubarak] Cooperation is going very well. Without the improvement that took place in this respect people would have suffered a lot, and even more improvement is taking place.

[Question] Finally, Mr President, what is President Husni Mubarak's message to the Egyptians and the Arabs for the new year?

[Mubarak] First, I say to the Arabs that we should find a common denominator. We should cooperate and leave the bickering and the disputes behind, for they are not in our interest. We have to be frank and sincere and not squabble over small matters. We must be united in our thinking and in our opinion of what concerns our significant issues. As for the Egyptians, I say that priority should be given to work and to increased production, because this is our only recourse.

[Question] And to the Egyptians living outside Egypt?

[Mubarak] Every Egyptian living abroad is an ambassador for his country. Egypt has given him much, and he has to help it. So, if he has any savings, he should deposit it in Egyptian rather than foreign banks. Still, if he chooses to bank with an investment company, he can do that at his own risk.

I hope that the new year will be one of love, cooperation, and optimism, a year in which differences diminish as much as possible, in which the Arabs find a common voice, in which the leaders come together, and in which the nations find a common ground of love and fraternity and make it into a norm.

U.S. 'Ultimatum' to PLO Criticized

NC2212071288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper has criticized the method by which the U.S. Administration started its dialogue with the PLO. As the dialogue began, Washington issued what sounds like a public ultimatum, saying that it will sever dialogue with the PLO if it takes part in any terrorist operation. The paper points out that this method is inappropriate in the early stages of the dialogue.

In its editorial in Thursday's edition, AL-AHRAM states that if it is wanted that this dialogue should continue and succeed, it must be free of provocative formulas, and be flexible and not governed by arrogance. The acceptance of the principle of dialogue in itself means mutual recognition of the qualifications of both parties to hold it.

AL-AHRAM goes on to say that both parties to the dialogue had better, now in the next round, and until they reach agreement on a date, steer clear of anything that might poison the atmosphere, or cause unwarranted friction, resentment, or disappointment. They should not demonstrate arrogance or make obstinate retractions, such as holding the PLO responsible in advance for any terrorist act committed by a madman, hireling, or someone seeking publicity, and they should not use such an act as a pretext for severing the dialogue.

Concluding, AL-AHRAM says that such public stands may encourage certain people to commit individual crimes to destroy the bridges in the early stages and bring the situation back to square one. There are many parties who have an interest in doing this at this particular stage.

Paper Notes Peres' 'Retreat' from Stands

NC2212074488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper has denounced the Israeli statements which coincided with the birth of the national unity government formed by Yizhaq Shamir. These statements indicate that the primary objective of the new government is to prevent the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and to sign an agreement between the Likud and the Labor Party not to negotiate with the PLO.

In its editorial today, entitled "The Strategy of Sabotaging Peace Will Be of No Use to Shamir," the paper says that the negotiations and bargaining between Likud bloc leader Shamir and Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres have revealed the falsity of the myth of hawks and doves in the Israeli politics.

The paper notes Peres' retreat from all his previous stands which advocated reaching an understanding with the Palestinians in order to establish a just peace in the region, as well as from his commitment to the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

The paper points out that the recent quick succession of developments in the Palestinian cause have united Shamir and Peres in confronting the dangerous situation which Israel has found itself in.

In conclusion, the paper asserts that the foolishness apparent in the Israeli plan to subvert the peace process—the peace process which has become a large-scale international demand—will only add to the isolation of Tel Aviv, which will eventually turn into just another ghetto.

Libya

Editor Warns U.S. on Chemical Weapons Claims

LD2112113388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 20 Dec (JANA)—The U.S. Government and its information centers continue to make allegations that the great socialist people's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is manufacturing chemical weapons. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the U.S. allegations, the JANA international affairs editor recalled what the brother leader of the revolution had affirmed, that the factory concerning which the U.S. government is making so much official and media noise is a pharmaceutical factory.

It was built to serve mankind and it will be opened officially in the presence of all ambassadors and newsmen so that they can learn about the U.S. lies which deceive the world in order to impose a veto on any progress made in the Arab homeland and hamper every effort to get rid of Western-U.S. hegemony in all fields. [passage omitted]

The editor said that the U.S. Government should be well aware of the fact that any attempt to attack this factory will be an attack on one of the achievements of the great Al-Fatih revolution and it will be confronted strongly by the Libyan Arab people and by the Arab nation who have resolved to defend their achievements and to repel any aggressive attempt against their achievements. [passage omitted]

The editor affirmed that this arrogant policy cannot be stopped by wishes but by serious action so that a single Arab force can be created capable of frustrating conspiracies and deterring plots aimed at annihilating the Arab nation—a deterrent that can be understood by the Americans.

Therefore the Libyan people who are trying to realize Arab unity will not ignore any attempt to transgress against its achievements. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Reportage on 'Unsuccessful' Coup, Aftermath

Pro-Numayri Forces Blamed

NC2112115288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Dec (MENA)—The Sudanese newspaper AL-SIYASAH published today the details of the unsuccessful, bloody coup attempt which was to have been carried out last Saturday [17 December] morning.

The paper says that loyalists of former President Ja'far Numayri are behind the attempt. It added that the conspirators are divided into two groups that include retired military men led by a retired lieutenant general and civilians, most of whom are former members of the defunct Sudanese Socialist Union.

AL-SIYASAH reports that the conspiracy called for the first group of conspirators, numbering 9 or 10 retired officers, to intercept the prime minister's motorcade while he was traveling to the cabinet premises last Saturday morning, obstruct his car, and then destroy it by means of an RPG.

The paper adds that the second group of conspirators included between 20 and 22 persons, among whom were a number of retired army officers led by a lieutenant general, a pilot with the rank of major general, a police brigadier general, and a first lieutenant. The paper did not give the names of these officers, but identified them by their initials.

The paper said that official, popular, and security quarters are vigilant for any other conspiracies and added that although investigations will be conducted within the few days, there already are indications of foreign involvement on the coup attempt.

The paper noted that all the elements whose names appeared in connection with the unsuccessful coup attempt have been arrested under the provisions of the state of emergency declared in the capital yesterday, Tuesday.

The newspaper said that there is a link between the press interview which former President Numayri gave within the past few weeks and the coup attempt.

'Anti-Riot Police' on Patrol

JN2112163688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] The perpetrators of the abortive coup attempt in Sudan were planning to assassinate Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, according to today's issue of the newspaper AL-SIYASAH.

The paper added that coupists included four Army generals, one of whom was retired. They backed down when one of the officers involved in the plot was arrested, according to the same paper.

Sudanese anti-riot police patrolled Khartoum streets following the declaration of the state of emergency to prevent a demonstration supporting the peace plan on south Sudan.

Sudanese Justice Minister Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front, declared the state of emergency in Sudan the day before yesterday. In the meantime, the Sudanese Parliament postponed for the 2d day its discussion of the peace plan presented by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Defense Minister's Statement

LD2112173688 Khartoum SUNA in English 1711 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 21 (SUNA)—Some elements of the regime of the former President Numayri, among them some military men, were arrested in a move aimed at destabilizing the democratic system in Sudan, Defense Minister 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil said.

Khalil, in a press statement released here today, said some civilian elements belonging to the former regime of ousted Numayri, had succeeded in making some elements in the armed forces join the aborted coup attempt.

A lieutenant, involved in the coup attempt, was arrested, Khalil confirmed.

Investigations carried out with the lieutenant revealed that, some elements of former regime and some pensioned militarymen were involved in the move.

Khalil added that the civilian and military group involved in the aborted coup were put under detention.

Khartoum was declared yesterday as an area of defensive emergency.

The minister of defence reaffirmed that the armed forces will guard the democratic option of the people and it will abort any move aimed at undermining the national political system in the country.

Surveillance on Coupists

NC2212111088 Cairo MENA in English 1048 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 22 (MENA)—Sudanese Defence Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Khalil said that the recent abortive coup in Sudan, to have taken place on Saturday, had been under surveillance since it was hatched and till the arrest of the participants.

General Khalil said today that the apprehended group was connected with the previous regime and aimed at unsettling the democratic regime in Sudan. At first, the conspirators' moves were away from the Armed Forces but they tended in recent times to infiltrate the Armed Forces through mobilising some military men, he said, adding that they achieved a limited success in this respect.

General Khalil said the culprits were civilians and military men and shared connections and interests with the previous regime and were placed under surveillance. Their recent activities and meetings were monitored and led to their arrest.

An official Sudanese statement had announced that 25 civilians and military men loyal to the previous regime have been arrested.

6-Member National Security Council Established

EA2112172988 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] The Constituent Assembly, under the chairmanship of Muhammad Yusuf Muhammad, yesterday morning endorsed a temporary order regarding the national security law presented by the chairman of the Defense and Security Committee in the Constituent Assembly.

'Abd al-Rahman Farah, chairman of the committee explained that security problems and waves of migration have resulted in a breakdown in social discipline and armed robbery to [word indistinct] the national unity. This necessitates the establishment of a national security organ.

His excellency added that the most important characteristics of the law are the organization of security policies and coordination between the various organs, receiving reports on national security, making decisions on security, and issuing instructions regarding these decisions.

He said this organ intends to protect the country's security and independence, as well as its democratic system and its interests against external threats.

The National Security Council is composed of six persons: the prime minister; the defense minister; the interior, foreign and justice ministers; and a counsellor for national security. The new organ will be established as an independent force under the supervision of the national security counsellor.

Joint Communique Issued on Talks With Ethiopia

EA2112190388 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 21st December—The Sudanese-Ethiopian joint communique, signed current 21st December, was officially announced here today.

The joint communique said that Ethiopian Premier Fikre-Selassie had visited Sudan on 18th-19th [as received] December to review with Sudanese Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi ways of bolstering bilateral relations and achieving peace, stability, co-operation and security in the region.

Selassie and Al-Mahdi held talks on issues of mutual concern and stressed the necessity of improving brotherly relations between the two neighboruing countries.

The two prime ministers, the joint communique said, reaffirmed readiness to work for national development in both countries.

Sudan and Ethiopia agreed to continue consultations within the framework of the ministerial committee. The two sides decided to take necessary measures against the elements working to undermine the national unity and the political stability in Sudan and Ethiopia, the communique added.

31 Dec Constitutional Conference Approved

EA2212113888 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Dec. (SUNA)—The Constituent Assembly yesterday voted for the motion presented to the house by Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to authorise him to take the necessary steps towards the convocation of the national constitutional conference on 31st December. The votes was 136 against 77 with one deputy abstained. [sentence as received]

Those who voted in favour of the premier's motion were deputies of Ummah Party, the National Islamic Front and the southern parties participating in the government.

The motion was opposed by the MPs of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], the African opposition parties, the Sudanese National Party and the Sudanese Communist Party. The assembly during its six hour session turned down amendments to the premiers proposal which had been presented by the DUP by 136 votes against 78.

The rejected DUP proposal called for the approval by the house of the whole of the peace agreement reached by the party with Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) last month.

Speaking at the outset of the lengthy session M.P. Uthman Mudawi of the National Islamic Front expressed support to the premier's statement, saying that it rejected the classification of the people into a camp of war and another of peace.

MP Aldo Ajo Deng, minister of transport, stressed the importance of peace for the realisation of development but he affirmed the necessity of the participation of all political forces in the process.

Deputy Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad of DUP said that the DUP-SPLM agreement is being supported by wide sectors of the political forces, trade unions, association and popular organisations. He said the premier's accusations for a certain political circles of attempting to isolate another were unjust ones. [sentence as received].

MP Angelo Beda, president [as received] stressed that a peace agreement should be reached to rescue the citizens in the south. Deputy Izz al-Din Ali Amir, the Communist Party, noted that the rejection of the DUP-SPLM peace agreement will complicate the situation and make the search for peace very difficult.

Deputy Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, DUP, foreign minister noted that the DUP-SPLM agreement was based on the previous peace initiatives and reviewed its advantages saying that it ended disagreement over the Constitution and call for the suspension of Islamic laws rather than their complete cancellation. [sentence as received]

Garang Issues Statement on Peace Moves

EA2112205588 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Dec 88

["Statement" by John Garang de Mabior, commander in chief and chairman of the SPLM-SPLA; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: Greetings in the name of the glorious Sudanese revolution, in the name of the new Sudan, of peace, progress, equality, and justice for all, irrespective of race, tribe, religion, creed, or sex.

Compatriots, it has been more than one month now since the signing of the SPLM-DUP peace initiative on 16th November 1988, and only 11 days are left to the date when the national Constitutional Conference [NCC] is scheduled to be held.

I am bound by my responsibilities to the Sudanese revolution and people to briefly address you today over Radio SPLA in order to share with you the difficulties and hopes surrounding the peace initiative and what needs to be done in order to push the peace process forward.

First, the hopes: We are very much gratified that the SPLM-DUP peace initiative has received massive popular support from all sectors of Sudanese society. We noted that only a small political fringe took the absurd position to demonstrate against peace, specifically elements within Dr al-Turabi's National Islamic Front [NIF].

We also noted that the majority of the Ummah Party supported this initiative, but are restrained by the prime minister, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who continues to this day to take unambiguous [as heard] and to double-talk and drag his feet, and who continues to refuse to formally endorse the peace initiative.

Otherwise, overall, the vast majority of the Sudanese people are solidly behind the peace initiative. I take this opportunity to renew SPLM-SPLA's solidarity with those who support the SPLM-DUP peace initiative. I congratulate the Sudanese people for their firm stand for peace.

I especially congratulate those courageous NIF MP's who resigned from the party in protest against the absurd, unpatriotic, warmongering, and extremely negative position taken by the NIF against peace. I congratulate the minister of defense, General 'Abd al-majid, and the Army for their expressed support for the SPLM-DUP peace initiative.

I congratulate those [as heard] silent majority of the Ummah [Party] who support the peace initiative, but who stand in the shadow and fear of the prime minister. It is my hope that they will break their silence, move away from the prime minister's shadow of war, and join us in the light and brightness of peace and a happy, prosperous new Sudan.

I congratulate the DUP with which the SPLM concluded the peace initiative and urge them to remain firm to the end, until peace is achieved. I congratulate the forces of the uprising—that is, the other political parties, the Alliance [for National Salvation], trade and professional unions, and students and women's organizations for their firm stand behind this peace initiative.

Last, but not least, I congratulate the SPLA soldier for his steadfastness and confidence in the SPLM-SPLA leadership that the movement will never betray them nor the Sudanese revolution, and take this opportunity to assure them of this wherever they are.

Secondly, fellow countrymen, while I am hopeful, the obstacles on the path to peace, although not insurmountable, are monumental. The first and biggest obstacle is the prime minister himself, Mr al-Sadiq al- Mahdi. It is 35 days today since the SPLM and DUP signed the peace initiative and the government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi have not gathered enough political will and courage to formally endorse the peace initiative. This is reason for alarm.

Instead of formally endorsing the peace initiative, the prime minister plunged into his usual tactic of making unilateral, one-sided decisions about meeting of the SPLM-SPLA.

It is to be recalled that Al-Sadiq, out of the clear blue sky, announced last October that he was meeting me on 25th October 1988 in Kampala, Uganda. The decision was his alone. The SPLA was never contacted. The date, 25th October 1988, and the venue, Kampala, were also his alone.

This time he again unilaterally decided and announced that he was sending a high-level delegation consisting of his defense and foreign ministers to Addis Ababa on Wednesday, 7th December 1988. He even decided whom the delegation should meet.

According to him, his foreign minister was to meet the SPLA leader. The trouble is that the prime minister takes a lot for granted, and when his wishes are not granted he starts blaming the stars. When Al-Sadiq's delegation could not travel, the government then began to issue a series of explanations.

One explanation was that the trip was postponed because of some administrative delays in Khartoum and Addis Ababa. This was, of course, an admission that the government had made no prior arrangements.

Another explanation said that the trip was postponed because the leader of the SPLA was travelling in West Africa. This is according to the SUDAN TIMES. There is, of course, another admission—That the government had made no consultation with the SPLM-SPLA.

A fourth and most recent explanation, according to SUNA on 13th December, is that the trip was postponed because the Sudanese Embassy in Addis Ababa had asked that the two ministers wait until after a 3-day visit to Khartoum by the Ethiopian prime minister. This is another admission of the government's lack of coordination and a manifestation of messed-up schedules.

Fellow countrymen, compatriots! The truth about Al-Sadiq's high-level delegation consisting of the defense and foreign ministers is that the government has made no prior consultations with the SPLM-SPLA. Whatever starts wrongly usually ends wrongly, and so will this ill-conceived high-level delegation of Al-Sadiq's.

Although the government chose not to consult with the SPLM-SPLA, this could be excused as a result of the habitual arrogance of the nobility, if the two ministers were coming to the SPLA to present to the movement what the government had implemented as stipulated in the peace initiative. But far from it—the government till now has done nothing, absolutely nothing!

Compatriots, what is needed is not an Al-Sadiq delegation to the SPLM-SPLA and the opening up of fresh talks. What the government needs is action, not talks. The prime ministers says he has single-Handedly made 14 peace initiatives. What is needed is not his 15th peace initiative.

What the Sudanese people ask of the prime minister is to endorse this one peace initiative that was signed on 16th November 1988 and in which the SPLA made significant compromises in the interests of peace.

So what precisely does the government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi need to do to push the peace process forward? It is simple. First, the Cabinet simply endorses the peace initiative, and secondly Parliament passes [it]. This position has been formally conveyed to the DUP, with whom we signed the peace initiative, and to the other political forces in the alliance.

The reasons for this mechanism of implementing the peace initiative are clear and straightforward. The Cabinet are appointees. Whereas their endorsement is necessary, it is not sufficient because they can endorse the peace initiative today and tomorrow we may have a new Cabinet altogether. Similarly, a verbal or written word by Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi that he accepts the peace initiative, although necessary, is not sufficient.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is prime minister because he was elected by the majority of MP's. It is possible for him to lose a vote of confidence and for Parliament to elect a new prime Minister, putting Al-Sadiq in the opposition.

So, to reiterate, the position of the SPLM-SPLA is that is necessary for Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his Cabinet to formally endorse the peace initiative. But this is not sufficient. The ultimate constitutional authority, (?if) passage of the DUP-SPLM peace initiative would satisfy the SPLM, is Parliament, which is the constitutional organ that gives Al-Sadiq or any other in his Cabinet legitimacy.

Compatriots, I end this short statement by summarizing the terms and procedures of implementing the SPLM-DUP peace initiative. These are:

1. Formally the government endorsement of the peace initiative through a resolution by the Council of Ministers. [Sentence as heard]

2. Passage into law by Parliament of points 1 and 2 of the peace initiative.

3. Formation of the National Preparatory Committee to include all effective political forces.

4. Convening of the National Preparatory Committee to include all effective political forces.

5. Convening of the National Constitutional Conference in a place to be agreed upon.

5. Lifting of the state of emergency and declaration of the cease-fire by both sides at least 1 week before the opening of the National Constitutional Conference.

Fellow countrymen, compatriots, I find it necessary to clarify the steps necessary to push forward the peace process. There is no logical or political reason why the prime minister refuses to endorse the peace initiative. The Ummah, DUP, the Union of Sudan African Parties, and other parties in Parliament form a very big majority.

The NIF refuses to endorse the peace initiative. So what? They are a small minority. After all, Al-Sadiq formed two governments with the DUP without the NIF. The NIF only entered Al-Sadiq's third government. The NIF can, therefore, not be the reason for the prime minster's intransigence.

As to the mission of ithe minister of defense and foreign minister to meet the SPLA, this is a waste of public funds. If they come empty-handed, they will obviously return empty-handed. The prime minister is free to send his ministers for sightseeing abroad, but he will have to account for it.

I end by calling on the Sudanese people and political forces and international friends of the Sudan to prevail on the government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to stop dragging its feet, to stop sending unnecessary, empty-handed delegations to the SPLA, and to do what is required; that is, his cabinet to formally endorse the peace initiative by a resolution of his Cabinet and to call Parliament to session to pass the peace initiative.

And after that we will discuss the technicalities of the cease-fire. I reiterate that these procedures, these steps, have to be taken before any discussion of a cease-fire takes place.

Again, greetings, happy Christmas, and best wishes for a year of peace. Thank you very much.

Rebel Camp Captured by Anya Nya II
EA2112220388 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1340 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Excerpt] My brothers and sisters, the sons of the south, all the sons of Sudan, its north and south, its east and west from the National Unity Radio Muhammad Chuol greets you and announces to you this statement from the operational war zones.

The text reads: Anya Nya II forces have stormed and captured a rebel camp of John Garang's forces at a place called Shuwayy Dok. Our forces managed to totally destroy the camp and kill 1,600 of the betrayal forces.

Our forces confiscated the following items: 42 Kalashnikovs, 12 RPG's, 7 (?Doctorev) machineguns, and 7 (?Gronov) machineguns. Our forces also killed a senior officer from John Garang's forces named James Makway Chuol. [passage omitted]

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Further on GCC Ministerial Conference

Leaders Conclude Last Session

JN2112135688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1248 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 21 Dec (WAKH)—The GCC Supreme Council concluded its third working session under the chairmanship of Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain and chairman of the current session.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister and current chairman of the GCC Ministerial Council, has informed WAKH that their majesties and highnesses the GCC leaders have completed during their 2 and 1/2-hour third and last session their discussion of all issues listed on their agenda and taken the required resolutions regarding them.

The minister added that the leaders asked the foreign ministers to hold a session this evening to draft the resolutions and the final statement of the ninth GCC summit.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak went on to say that the GCC leaders will hold sideline meetings and bilateral contacts tonight to consult each other and exchange opinions on the topics and issues of interest to the GCC.

Drafting Committee Meets

JN2112174988 Manama WAKH in English 1642 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, DEC 21 (GNA)—The drafting committee consisting of delegations from GCC Foreign Ministries concluded its meetings here this evening.

During the three-hour meeting, the committee ended drafting the final communique before presenting it to the GCC Ministrial Council. The Ministrial Council will hold a session at 6:30 pm today to approve the communique before submitting it to the final session of the ninth GCC summit due to be held tomorrow for indorsement.

Council Holds Evening Session

JN2112175088 Manama WAKH in English 1646 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, Dec 21 (GNA)—The GCC Ministerial Council held a session this evening under the chairmanship of Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Mohammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, chairman of the current session of the GCC Ministerial Council.

The GCC foreign ministers will review the final communique to be issued by the ninth GCC summit at the conclusion of its work tomorrow.

Ministers Conclude Meetings

JN2'12184788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 21 DEC (WAKH)—At 2015 tonight, the GCC foreign ministers concluded their meetings, which had been held under the chairmanship of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, the Bahraini foreign minister and chairman of the current GCC Ministerial Council.

Informed sources told WAKH that the foreign ministers discussed during their final session the resolutions adopted by the GCC leaders during their three sessions. These resolutions were drafted in the final communique of the ninth GCC session, which will be announced Thursday morning.

The ministers also approved the "Bahrain economic declaration," which includes many trade and customs facilities among the GCC countries in light of their economic and social conformity.

Saudi Arabia

Court Adviser on Soviet-Mujahidin Mediation

JN2012174588 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 15 Dec 88 pp 48-50

[Interview with Dr Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi, adviser at the court of King Fahd, by Sana' al-Sa'id; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Sa'id] Many people might be unaware of the fact that the mediation that you launched resulted in the materialization of the first round of talks recently held in Saudi Arabia between a Soviet delegation led by Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Dr Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Islamic Afghan Association.

We are here referring to the negotiations that hopefully will put an end to the bloodletting and help establish a state enjoying peace and stability. What is your perspective on this issue, considering that you were a main party to it?

[Al-Dawalibi] As for me, I would like to say that my involvement with the issue came about a year ago when we were invited to the USSR in the wake of the proclamation of the policy of perestroika and glasnost.

At that time, we became certain that the Soviets wanted to withdraw from Afghanistan but also that they wanted, prior to their withdrawal, to be reassured on the internal situation so that a national reconciliation may be achieved and so that the situation will stabilize and a new government be installed without kiling or infighting.

They did not want to leave a situation similar to that which previously plagued the ROK and the DPRK or North and South Vietnam. The Soviets were eager to launch an inter-Afghan dialogue. They sought to complete the withdrawal provided that they obtained full reassurances on the internal situation in Afghanistan.

[Al-Sa'id] This means that you were certain of the sincerity of Soviet intentions pertaining to their true aspirations for the Afghan people's unity.

[Al-Dawalibi] I am convinced that they seek the unity of the [Afghan] people. They communicated these ideas to us and talked to us about them, affirming that realizing the objective of the Afghan people's unity is behind this exchange of opinions.

They also asserted that they will bless the people's Islamic tendencies and that they have nothing against this. However, they also believed that they cannot withdraw, leaving the party which has been ruling the country for years plagued with differences with other parties, as this would mean the perpetuation of massacres.

[Al-Sa'id] But the Soviets sought from the beginning to see the talks launch an inter-Afghan dialogue with the approval and participation of the Kabul government.

[Al-Dawalibi] We said frankly and loudly that there will be no negotiations with the ones who reneged on the nation; namely, Najibullah and his supporters. We told the Soviets that their interests lie with the mujahidin, as they represent the people and maintain control over 80 percent of Afghan territory.

As for national reconciliation, we, in cooperation with the mujahidin, will guarantee that there will be no infighting or differences if disputed issue between them [the mujahidin] and the Soviets is resolved, we told the Soviets. We also asked the Soviets to enter into negotiations with the mujahidin. In the beginning, they hesitated and said:

"How can we enter into negotiations with the mujahidin if the the party that has been ruling the country, enjoys international recognition, and is a UN member, is denied participation in these negotiations? How can we hold a backstage dialogue?"

However, we convinced them that a dialogue with Najibullah and his supporters cannot materialize. We said to them: "The mujahidin did not recognize Najibullah when the Soviet Army was by his side. How then can they negotiate with him today, considering that the Soviets are withdrawing?"

As a result of this, a new Soviet stand emerged, thus allowing the Soviets to enter into negotiations with the mujahidin. We pin great hopes on the recent meeting in Al-Ta'if. We hope that dates for other meetings will be fixed. We want something good to come out of all this.

[Al-Sa'id] Najibullah proposed an international conference designed to enhance the Geneva agreements according to which Moscow pledged to withdraw its troops by 15 February.

[Al-Dawalibi] What I have already said is no more than an explanation of facts. I would like to say that the mujahidin refused to hold talks with the Afghan Government and that Soviet interests lie with the Muslim Afghan people and not with Najibullah. We do not seek to see those who have ruled Afghanistan harmed.

However, we seek to clear the atmosphere between the majority of the people and the minority, and this is achievable through a referendum in which all the people are asked to cast their votes. The party chosen by the people will be asked to rule the country, and then let bygones be bygones.

The Soviets accepted this solution. We agreed with them on the possibility of entrusting UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar with this mission. An international commission to be appointed by him could hold the referendum. The party that wins the referendum will be asked to rule the country. In a related development, we earlier contacted the Afghan mujahidin, and they are willing to forgive.

The entire nation, not a group of people who do not express the nation's will and who live under the canopy of Najibullah's rule, should have the final say in this regard, particularly if we take into account the fact that the largest part of the country's territory is currently under the control of the mujahidin.

Hence a referendum encompassing all of Afghanistan, sponsored by an international commission headed by the UN secretary general, and with the mujahidin involved in its supervision, is the solution.

We are optimistic about this. After the dismissal of the international mediator who clashed with the mujahidin and after entrusting Javier Perez de Cuellar with performing the [mediation] mission, we hope that things will stabilize and that power will be given to the party that wins in the referendum.

As Muslims, we are always eager to resolve humanitarian issues. Hence, we have exerted efforts to resolve the Afghan conflict and coordinated these efforts to avoid any differences between citizens and also to help bring about an Afghan national reconciliation.

[Al-Sa'id] One of the main humanitarian issues that you are currently dealing with is that of the POW's of the Iraq-Iran war, especially if we take into account the fact that you are the chairman of the Executive Council of the Iraqi Popular Islamic Conference Organization and that you are on a tour to help resolve the issue of the POW's—a tour that has already taken you to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Geneva, and France to contact the concerned international organizations and humanitarian bodies in this regard. Do you envisage a speedy solution to this issue?

[Al-Dawalibi] As Muslims, we believe that the Islamic action should be characterized by the purest humane sentiments. Man, irrespective of religions and creeds,

should be the main preoccupation of Muslims. All parties had hoped that the POW issue would be resolved when the Iraq-Iran war was terminated. We hope that an irreversible reconciliation between the two states will take place.

However, months have elapsed since the cease-fire went into effect without seeing the POW's released. The hopes of fathers, sons, and wives regarding their POW's have evaporated, particularly as they had expected their POW's to be released in accordance with the international convention of 1949, which stipulates that the exchange of POW's must immediately follow the termination of hostilities.

The relatives of more than 100,000 POW's have been shocked by the passage of several months without seeing their relatives released. After the cease-fire, slowness was manifest. Besides, the issue was linked to bilateral political talks and complications.

Hence, the status of man, which is cherished in Islam, is the reason that prompted us to launch this campaign and draw the attention of the entire world, with its different religions and creeds and with its governments, to the need to launch a similar humanitarian campaign to resolve this issue.

We do not seek to see any of the parties assailed. However, international law must be implemented, and all international parties must work to bring pressure to bear on officials in both Iraq and Iran and also on the international organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to see them redouble their efforts to end this human psychological suffering being felt by the families of 100,000 POW's. [passage omitted]

Government To Give $6 Million To Support PLO

LD2212054288 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 21 Dec (SPA)—Rafiq Shakir al-Natshah, member of the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement and PLO representative to the Kingdom, announced that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has decided to allocate $6,020,000 in aid in support of the Palestinian people's uprising from the beginning of next year, 1989.

He said that this sum represents the share the Kingdom had committed itself to pay during the Arab summit conference held in Algeria last June in support of the continuity of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Paper Cited on Israeli Anti-U.S. Terrorism

JN2212131088 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] A responsible source in the U.S. State Department has disclosed that his department has received several reports from its security missions abroad on the possible beginning of terrorist activity against official U.S. establishments and institutions.

These include a report which indicates the possibility of Israeli terrorist acts against the United States.

Today's issue of AL-ITTIHAD cites this source as saying that the State Department has received a report from its consulate in occupied Jerusalem which says that based on the information it has accumulated the consulate expects a Jewish group to carry out terrorist acts against the consulate building and the diplomats working in it.

The source explained that the anti-terrorist and security sections in the department are currently studying and assessing these reports.

He explained that the department will examine any terrorist operation that takes place in the region before issuing any statement or adopting any official stand.

Ambassador Recalled from Khartoum Over Incident

JN1412115588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] The UAE has regretted the Sudanese security authorities' release of the person who recently stormed the UAE Embassy in Khartoum and decided to recall its ambassador from Khartoum out of concern for his own safety.

His Excellency Ya'qub al-Kindi, Foreign Ministry acting under secretary, yesterday summoned His Excellency Hamad al-Nil Ahmad Muhammad, Sudanese ambassador to the UAE, and informed him that the UAE regrets the Sudanese security authorities' release of the person who stormed the embassy and had thus committed a punishable crime.

He also conveyed to him the UAE's decision to recall its ambassador from Khartoum out of concern for his safety.

His Excellency Ya'qub al-Kindi stressed to the ambassador that while regretting this decision, the UAE and its citizens consider Sudan a fraternal country.

To maintain this fraternity, the UAE asks that the perpetrator of this crime against the ambassador and the embassy staff receive the punishment he deserves.

An armed person stormed the UAE Embassy building in Khartoum on 9 November this year and held up His Excellency Muhammad Sultan al-Suwaydi, the UAE ambassador in Khartoum, as well as the consul and four embassy employees for 4 hours. A force from the Sudanese shock troops then arrested the intruder.

USSR Official Meets President, Departs

JN2112121688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GM T 21 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Dec (INA)—Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, USSR first deputy foreign minister, and his delegation left Baghdad today at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the Soviet official held talks with a number of Iraqi officials on bilateral relations and Arab and international issues of common interest.

President Saddam Husayn yesterday received Aleksandr Bessmertynkh, who conveyed to his excellency the greetings of President Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership, their best wishes of success and progress for Iraq under the canopy of peace, and their strong desire to continue and promote the traditional friendly relations of cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iraq.

New Regulations on Reserve Forces Approved

JN1912142888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1256 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—President leader Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the RCC, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, and the Armed Forces General Command. A number of Defense Ministry specialists attended the meeting.

During the meeting, new regulations prepared by the Ministry of Defense on calling up the reserve forces for military service were studied and approved.

Following the meeting, a military spokesman stated to INA that the new regulations on calling up the reserve forces for military service were based on the war experience with Iranian aggression and on the national defense needs in view of all possibilities.

The regulations also take into account the modern means of organization, notification, and the joining of military service in a way that will secure speed and accuracy in mobilization on any level required by the country's defense needs.

The spokesman asserted that these new regulations—which the president leader commander in chief of the Armed Forces instructed be prepared more than a year ago—also take into account the state of peace and its requirements in terms of reducing the size of the regular Armed Forces.

It is known that countries that have effective regulations on calling up the reserve forces for military service can meet their defense needs in peace without having large regular armed forces, thereby saving significant human and material resources.

Moreover, such countries, through effective regulations on calling up the reserve forces for military service, can meet their defense needs efficiently and quickly when national security is subjected to an anticipated or sudden threat.

UN Commander Leaves for Tehran 22 Dec

JN2212091088 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] SFRY General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN observer team entrusted with supervising cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, left Baghdad for Tehran this morning, thus, concluding a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

During the visit, Gen Jovic became acquainted with the UN observers' work in Iraq.

Labor Party Votes To Join Broad-Based Government
TA2112135288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1340 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] The Labor Party Central Committee has approved joining a Shamir-led government. A decisive majority of the Central Committee members voted in favor of joining the government; only a small minority raised the yellow vote cards against doing so.

The Labor Party has thus has decided to enter the government. It has approved the coalition agreement as presented by Minister Moshe Shahal, and expressed confidence in the party leaders who have all along supported joining a national unity government.

Labor Central Committee Ratifies Portfolio List
TA2112170288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The Labor Party Central Committee this afternoon approved Labor's joining a broad-based government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir. In the midst of a major uproar, the Central Committee approved the 11-minister list presented by party chairman Shim'on Peres.

The uproar was caused by female members of the Central Committee, reacting to the fact that Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino was taken off the list, with no other woman slated in her place. Ora Namir, who was a candidate for the position of deputy minister, left the Central Committee meeting in anger and tears after rejecting Shim'on Peres' offer to be deputy foreign minister.

In tears, Arbeli-Almozlino said she was surprised, but that she accepts the decision with understanding and would continue her public activity in the Knesset.

Shim'on Peres announced that the exact number of Labor ministers is still unclear, and depends on whether the religious parties join the government, which will be made known tomorrow. Peres announced that in the future he would try to rectify the situation and place a woman from the Labor Party in the Cabinet.

Continuing his remarks, Peres presented the ministers as follows: Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Rabin, Yitzhaq Navon, 'Ezer Weizman, Moshe Shahal, Gad Ya'aqobi, Hayim Bar-Lev, Ya'aqov Tzur, Mordekhay Gur; and two new candidates for minister, Avraham Katz-'Oz and 'Uzi Bar-'Am. Refa'el Edri is an additional candidate in case Labor gets 12 ministers in the new government. 'Uzi Bar-'Am said that he does not wish to join the government.

Peres, however, said that he refuses to accept his remarks. The list, as was said before, was ratified by two-thirds of the Central Committee. [passage omitted]

It has just been reported that Bar-'Am announced that he will not join the new government despite the fact that the Labor Central Committee ratified the list in full.

Shamir, Peres Sign Coalition Agreement
TA2212073988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] The coalition agreement between the Likud and the Alignment was signed a few minutes ago. Our political correspondent reports that at the last minute before the signing ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi demanded that another minister be added from the two large parties.

Levi meant to propose the candidacy of Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, a member of his camp. If it is indeed decided to add another minister, the Alignment may be able to include a woman in the government. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] A few minutes ago the prime minister and the vice prime minister signed the coalition agreement between the Likud and the Alignment. It is still unclear whether the government will include 26 or 28 ministers, as is deemed necessary by the latest political development. This is what Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said during the signing ceremony:

[Shamir] Government members, representatives of the parties forming the coalition, we are about to sign the incoming coalition agreement after the 12th Knesset elections. The elections were held less than 2 months ago; since then there have been difficult negotiations with ups and downs.

During the negotiations all concerned exerted efforts to safeguard the interests of the nation on the one hand and adhere to the principles which they represented in the elections on the other. The agreement in front of us is a result of those negotiations.

The Likud and the Alignment have done everything possible to attain a government that can lead the country in this hour. We all realized that Israel's political situation at present requires a maximal concentration of efforts and forces in order to stand together to confront the dangers and difficulties.

[Ben-'Ami] This is what the prime minister said. Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister Shim'on Peres said we all share the same future and the same country and that together, with full cooperation, we must solve our problems. Mr Peres said that the difficult coalition negotiations resulted from the electoral system; we are all the victims of the election results, which in turn are the victim of the electoral system, which we must change. [end recording]

Shamir Presents New Government to Knesset

TA2212103688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0836 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during the inauguration of the new government in the Knesset—live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, honorable Knesset:

On 14 November 1988, the president gave me the task of forming a government. Today I am honored to present the government to the Knesset and to ask for its confidence. The national unity government which I am presenting today is in many ways an answer to the needs of the moment. The challenges which Israel will face in the next few years require us to join together all the forces that want to and can lend a hand in accomplishing the national goals.

The first 40 years of Israel, which we celebrated recently, have been rich in achievements in the fields of security, settlement, and creativity. Our ancient and modern nation, however, which has returned to national independence, has passed only a short part of the way; we still have a great task of bringing peace to our borders and of strengthening our security, of more Jewish immigration to Israel, of settlement, education, industry, scientific development, and so forth.

When the president handed me the task of forming the government, I knew that we could establish a government that would enjoy a narrow majority in the Knesset. All the time, however, I believed that we ought to strive for a broad-based government, because despite the considerable ideological differences of opinion between the two big parties, the things they share—the vision of Zionism and the rebirth of Israel in its country—ar. greater than the differences between them.

SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and the National Religious Party [NRP] have meanwhile decided to join the government and the coalition. The NRP will choose its ministers in the next few days, and at that time their names will be made known to the Knesset.

The developments in the international arena and the challenges we are about to face require us to bridge our differences in order to face the problems together and to overcome the obstacles and dangers in our path. I am mainly referring to the extensive propaganda and political offensive of the terrorist organizations and their friends and supporters which is currently being waged against Israel in the international political arena.

This offensive is based on deception. The clear objective of this offensive is to attain international cooperation for the establishment of a Palestinian PLO state within Eretz Yisra'el. At the same time, we can see special activity meant to exert heavy pressure on us to bring us to full withdrawal to the suffocating 1967 borders.

In order to firmly and effectively withstand these serious dangers, we must unite all the political forces in the nation in the name of establishing a national unity government to repel the threats and thwart the pressures. It is not without difficulties that we reached the agreement on the establishment of this government together with other factions. I hope that it will turn out to be a blessing.

Honorable Knesset, the process of consolidating our society into a nation is still going on, and our country is still facing many serious dangers. We have not reached a situation in which every individual and every ideological group can afford not only to adhere to its ideology but also to fight for this ideology at all cost, even at the expense of the public good.

A pluralism of opinions and schools of thought is one of the main characteristics of an open and dynamic society, but in the special circumstances of our existence we must behave with restraint in implementing our principles. We must be considerate of others and understand that internal concessions and compromise are essential for the supreme interest of the nation and the country.

During this present chapter of our history, it is vital that we preserve our unity in the international arena and our national consensus on basic issues regarding our existence. Moreover, internal unity will greatly help us in cultivating and strengthening our link to the Jewish people still living in the diaspora.

The Jewish communities abroad yearn for a message of national agreement on basic issues in Israel, and it is incumbent upon us to do everything possible to consolidate this agreement and to unite world Jewry and Israel's friends around this agreement by speaking clearly with one voice.

What are the immediate challenges we are currently facing? In the political-security field, we primarily have to act to promote the peace process. We are not doing this out of weakness or out of fear of pressure. We have always extended our hand to our Arab neighbors, at all times and in all possible manners, and we have often proved that we are willing to approach energetically and with goodwill whoever wants to live peacefully with us.

This government is united in calling the Arab states to enter negotiations with us toward an honorable and viable peace settlement. There is no issue which unites all sectors and communities of our nation more than the desire for peace, and there is no household in Israel which has not suffered from the many victims our nation has lost during its struggle for security and peace.

We will therefore ceaselessly strive, we will not spare any efforts, we will be attentive to any reverberations coming toward us from beyond the borders of hostility and heralding a message of willingness for coexistence, mutual acceptance, and a desire for peace.

The peace we seek must be mutual; it can be implemented...[heckling from the opposition benches; Speaker Shilansky calls Knesset Members Darawshah and Kohen to order] it can be implemented only through a direct dialogue. This peace must clearly express the Arab acceptance of the existence of Israel as a country that enjoys an equal status and equal rights to all the other countries in the region.

Israel must be allowed to ensure its security, and the Arab residents of Eretz Yisra'el must be permitted to run their own affairs with maximum freedom and under conditions of peaceful coexistence with their Jewish neighbors.

I am calling upon the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to listen to the voice of reason and common sense; we want to create conditions of peaceful coexistence with you which will ensure freedom and prosperity for you and for your children... (more heckling from the opposition benches by MK Mi'ari]

Those who urged you to go into the streets and to take violent action will win you nothing but empty declarations and slogans. Do not listen to the proposals of inciters and ruffians, who only know how to bring suffering and bereavement and who cannot solve your problems. In the framework of the negotiations with the neighboring Arab countries, it will be possible to do much toward implementing practical plans for our joint future in this country.

I am calling on the Jordanian king to accept our call for peace and immediately enter negotiations with us, together with representatives of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip Arabs. The geographical, demographic, political, and economic conditions in our two countries and along our joint border necessitate a dialogue, an arrangement, and practical cooperation for the benefit of the two nations.

There is no justification for procrastination, for the severance of contacts and the hostile expressions toward Israel. Peace between Israel and Jordan will strengthen the peace we have with Egypt and will bring a blessing and stability to the entire region.

[Knesset secretary hands Shamir a note] I have just received a note saying that Agudat Yisra'el has in principle decided to join the coalition, and I congratulate it. [more shouts from the opposition benches]

Egypt was the first to reach a peace agreement with us. This fact makes our two countries responsible for continuing the efforts toward broadening the peace and extending it to cover the entire region. The Egyptian Government is at a crossroads on this issue. It can strengthen the first bridge of peace between an Arab country and Israel and broaden it so that other neighbors will cross it and reach peace. There is only one way to achieve this goal: direct negotiations with Jordan with the participation of Arab-Palestinian representatives who are not connected with the terror organizations, the PLO and its kind. We hope that Egypt will respond to our call and decide to join us.

Two countries—one Jewish and the other Arab—have been established on the Eretz Yisra'el of history. The two countries give full expression to the aspirations of the two peoples for independence and for their own homelands. There is no room or logical reason for a second Arab state inside Eretz Yisra'el, and such will not emerge.

The way to solve the problem of Eretz Yisra'el Arabs lies in the Camp David agreements. We are bound to them and are convinced that they include a framework for a fair and just solution. We are calling upon Egypt to implement all their bilateral agreements with us which determine the framework of relations in various fields.

Mr Speaker, the IDF, the security services, the Israeli Police and all the other security elements are safeguarding our security with courage and dedication and are fighting PLO terrorism and the other manifestations of violence and disturbances. The Israeli Government conveys to them its appreciation and sends a message of encouragement. There is a broad national consensus regarding the sacred right of Jews to live anywhere in Eretz Yisra'el.

This neither runs counter to peace nor harms the peace process. The Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip play an important role in maintaining security and preventing the establishment of a PLO state in Eretz Yisra'el. Their very existence contributes to security along the roads and in various sites throughout the country.

The IDF and the security elements must guarantee their safety and security. We will guarantee the advancement and development of these settlements, as well as the settlements in the Golan Heights, and we will increase the settlement activity in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. There are things which go without saying, because they are written not only in books, in history pages, and in law; they are first of all etched in our hearts.

All our hearts beat with love for Jerusalem. It is sufficient for us to read what is written in the government's basic guidelines to express our policy toward Jerusalem and to uproot any evil thoughts by those harboring evil intentions: United Jerusalem, Israel's eternal capital, is one city under Israeli sovereignty and cannot be divided.

All religions will always be given free excess to their holy cities, and their freedom of worship will be preserved. As the psalm says: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they prosper who love you! Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers!

The relations between Israel and the United States naturally have a central place in Israel's foreign policy. The years of the outgoing Reagan administration have been years of unprecedented development in bilateral relations between Israel and the United States. To the historic dimension of the commitment of a great superpower to a small country fighting for its survival—a commitment based on joint values and a similar historical and cultural background—new dimensions have been added; first and foremost the strategic cooperation and a continual deepening of security relations in the fields of procurement and research and development, to the point that in certain areas we have been recognized as a major non-NATO ally.

The economic aid and the free trade zone agreement are also worthy of note. We are grateful to President Reagan, to Vice President Bush, to former Secretary of State Haig, and of course to Secretary of State George Shultz who has personally directed most of these developments, and to their other colleagues. We believe that these new excellent dimensions will continue and will develop even further in the future, under the new administration of President Bush.

We want to convey deep congratulations to President-elect George Bush, to Vice President-elect Dan Quayle, to incoming Secretary of State Jim Baker, and to their colleagues and wish them great success in navigating the ship of the leader of the West. Their success will be the success of all freedom seekers and will bring prosperity to the entire world. It is true that in every relationship there are occasional differences of opinion.

Even during recent years there have been certain issues pertaining to the complicated network of the Israeli-Arab conflict on which we have not always seen eye to eye with the United States.

To our regret, we had to express our firm disagreement with the latest U.S. Government decision on the matter of a dialogue with the PLO, which, in our opinion and to our knowledge, has not changed its skin or its ways, its vicious covenant or terror. We know this both from remarks made by key figures in this organization and through the organizations' actions.

According to its basic guidelines, the Israeli Government will not negotiate with the PLO. We are still hoping that the United States will reconsider its decision on the PLO. We have paid close attention to the statements of the administration's spokesmen concerning their attitude toward terrorism.

We hope that in light of these statements, they will draw the necessary conclusions regarding the PLO. As far as Israel is concerned, we will act so that Israeli-U.S. relations will continue to prosper in the future. The memorandum of agreement signed between the U.S. President and myself on the occasion of Israel's 40th independence day reaffirms the close relations between the two countries, which are based on joint goals, interests, and values.

As the document puts it: We welcome the achievements in strategic and economic cooperation and in defense aid. It also notes the desire of the sides to advance and strengthen their ties. We must strive to further develop and strengthen these relations.

U.S. Jewry plays an important part in our relations with the United States. U.S. Jewry is a faithful and vital ally of Israel. This alliance will continue and will be further cultivated.

In recent years there have been positive developments in our relations with Eastern European countries. The first signs were the establishment of interest offices in Poland and Hungary. This opened new possibilities, beyond our traditional friendly relations with Romania. There are signs of new beginnings with additional countries. There is considerable potential for such relations in the fields of economics, tourism, and so forth.

We will be able to implement this potential in the political area as well if full diplomatic relations are established. It goes without saying that we attribute great importance to our relations with the Jewish communities in these countries and to the cultural and religious cooperation with them, as well as to aliyah.

Naturally we are primarily concerned with our relations with the Soviet Union and with the developments regarding these relations—first and foremost with everything concerning the Jewish community. For the past few months there have been bilateral consular delegations in the two countries, but the Soviet Union undoubtedly understands that these relations cannot be a substitute for normal and full diplomatic relations.

Recent events have proven that there can be good cooperation in times of trouble for one of the countries. Images each country has had of the other as a result of many years of dissociation may change. In order for these changes to take place, it would be good of the Soviet Union—which has gone an impressive distance both in foreign and domestic policy over the last few years—to remove the anachronism of not having diplomatic relations with Israel, without linking this to any external issues; the time for this is ripe.

As always, our hearts are with our brethren, Soviet Jewry, which is almost the only community among all the nationalities in the Soviet Union that does not have any homeland in the Soviet Union itself. For too many

years Soviet Jewry have been cut off from Jewish culture, from Jewish religious observance, and from everything linking it to Judaism, and this was expressed in various areas.

We are calling upon the Soviet Government to open the gates to Jewish immigration to Israel, and we hope that this immigration will increase. At the same time, we are calling for tolerance of Jewish education activity and for the opening of Jewish religious and cultural institutions over and beyond the modest beginnings about which we have heard—and the sooner the better. One cannot overestimate the positive impression that such steps would create in the free world.

The State of Israel will never forget the fate of our brethren who are in distress in various countries: Syria and other countries which we will not mention. The people responsible for dealing with this issue do not spare any effort in helping these Jews everywhere and bringing them to Israel.

I will not divulge the details of the countries and of the efforts, but every Jew who longs for Zion should know that there are people striving ceaselessly toward fulfilling this goal.

The government will act toward improving our relations in countries around the world: in Europe, America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania by means of explaining our positions and cultivating friendship with every peace-seeking country that is interested in our friendship.

The government's socioeconomic policy derives from our being a Jewish and Zionist state, as well as from our security situation. We need a sound economy, not only for its own sake; for while it is true that it is necessary in and of itself, it is also essential as a step toward security and is crucial in allowing us to fulfill our destiny as a country calling on the Jews of the world to return, immigrate to Israel, settle here, and join their fate with ours. What are our the primary goals of our economic policy?

Let me mention only the major points: The Cabinet will take action to prepare the country for continuous growth, mainly by promoting production. This will be done by strengthening economic stability, lowering the rate of inflation to a level that will be on a par with developed countries, and by striving to effect structural changes in the economy, limiting the public sector, and promoting greater efficiency.

Boosted economic growth will provide jobs for the citizens of Israel and new immigrants and will help overcome the unemployment caused by the dismissal of excess labor from industrial plants. The Cabinet will discuss the conclusions drawn by the committee of directors general of government ministries, which it appointed, as early as in the next few days.

Its recommendations on ways to solve unemployment problems will be debated and the necessary decisions will subsequently be made. The Cabinet will take action to effect budgetary restraint by lowering public spending and consumption and making sure that the budget does not immediately spell deficits.

Pay raises should be instituted as a reward for greater productivity and efficiency. Tax and capital market reforms will continue to be implemented. The same holds true with regard to the sale of government-owned companies. Another goal is cutting back support for and defense of cartels and monopolies and limiting government intervention in the business sector's activities.

Action will be taken so that the benefits of the trade accords with the EEC countries are implemented to the maximum. We will also work toward preparing the economy for the state of affairs that will prevail once the European economy is unified in 1992. We will likewise do our best to fully exploit the potential in the free trade zone agreement with the United States.

Naturally, the Cabinet will strive to strengthen the settlement drive, in the broad sense of the word, and to boost all the components of the the agricultural sector. The government will extend aid to the agricultural sector, which is so vital and important, and help it overcome the crisis it is currently experiencing.

Action will also be taken to develop industry, to set up high-tech plants, and promote tourism. The Cabinet will carefully introduce and implement reform in the health system to bring about greater efficiency and improve the services it renders. The government's operations in housing will include the expansion of Project Renewal, which deals with the renovation of dilapidated urban areas, and the promotion of the construction of rental apartments. Action will be taken to centralize government operations in clear-cut areas of infrastructure, including the building of roads, education, and research.

In terms of public services, the government will have to continue to do its best within the confines of the state budget. This means that the state will continue to provide the citizen with the vital and most essential services in each of the areas I mentioned above. At the same time, however, we will approach and ask everyone to make every possible effort to prevent the budgetary constraints, which are unavoidable, from affecting the needs and the services.

Frugality and greater efficiency, dedication and the will to volunteer can largely compensate for the budgetary cutbacks. The government will provide for the needy, the senior citizens, and all those who are incapable of sustaining themselves. The remaining social gaps must disappear, and the government will work hard to complete this mission. We will likewise take action to strengthen the family as a unit and support large families.

We will help the development towns and try to improve the quality of life they can offer. Similarly, we will pay careful attention to higher education, science, and academic research, which are so vital for the economy, security, and future of the state.

We must act firmly and diligently toward developing the Arab and Druze sector by completing outline plans for the Arab and Druze settlements. We must incorporate the educated members of the minorities to serve the communities and play a role in various public institutions to broaden their share in national and public responsibility.

The road accidents continue to exact a heavy, bloody toll. Many efforts have been made, and are continuing to be made, to combat this phenomenon which I believe can be contained, if not totally eradicated. Whatever efforts have so far been made, they are in no way sufficient. This malaise, brought on by modern technology, requires a double effort, and we intend to invest time, in the very near future, in consultation with all the public elements, including the National Council for the Prevention of Road Accidents and others, to promote this issue.

The drug problem has afflicted many societies in the free world. Israel is not immune to it either, although—thank God—we are far from the dimensions this malignancy has assumed in the United States and other Western countries. Handling the issue requires coordination and resources. The outgoing government decided to set up an authority to fight drug abuse, and the Knesset legislated a bill on that issue.

The authority will start operating tomorrow, 6 months after the passing of the bill. Let me congratulate it and wish it great success from the bottom of my heart. My colleagues and I will continue to review the authority's activities and help it so that its goal will be met to the extent possible.

Mr Speaker, honorable Knesset, the State of Israel was established and exists not only for the sake of those who live in it, but for all the people of Israel. It was in our generation that the historical heart of our nation returned to Eretz Yisra'el. Consequently, what happens here directly affects all the other members of the Jewish nation in whatever dispersion they may live.

This revolutionary change places a great responsibility on us for the future, well-being, and safety of all Jews. At the same time, we must repeatedly remind our brethren in the diaspora of the biblical prophecy which emphasized the ingathering of the exiles, a return to Zion, the building of this land, and the fulfillment of the prayers voiced by many generations: May our eyes witness thy loving return to Zion [part of the Sabbath Jewish prayers].

We are one nation by virtue of our shared glorious heritage and by the right bequeathed to us by our forefathers' faithful adherence to this prayer despite the exile, sacrifices, and persecution. If our fate has decreed that we should have the right to witness and partake in the wondrous process of the building of Israel and the ingathering of the exiles of Israel from all corners of the earth, then we also have the duty to call on our brethren, wherever they reside, and beseech them to come to Israel, settle here, and join us in fulfilling the prophecy and prayer of their and our fathers.

The problem of registering converts who underwent the process overseas has, unfortunately, not been struck off the government's and the public's agenda for nearly a generation. As in previous years, during the negotiations that preceded the formation of this Cabinet, the hope and request that a solution be found to this matter of Halakic conversion to Judaism were also reiterated.

As will be recalled, during the previous government's term, an effort was made to find a mutually acceptable solution by setting up a ministerial committee. The solution, however, has not yet been found. To our regret, in the course of the past few weeks misconceptions arose that gave rise to concern among Jews abroad. Needless to say, there is no intention whatsoever to disqualify any Jew.

As for the solution to the problem that has been raised regarding converts from overseas who immigrate to Israel, a great deal of thought should be devoted to this issue. Obviously, all of us—all the movements and parties—are united in wishing for the self-evident desire to maintain the unity of the Jewish people everywhere.

The Jewish people's needs justify and necessitate a dialogue between all the denominations in a bid to make sure that whatever solution is found will be acceptable to all, or at least to the majority. I urge all the denominations and movements within the Jewish community in the diaspora, and primarily in the United States, to make a special effort in this regard in the nearest possible future.

We believe that with goodwill, this will be possible, so that a basis around which we can unite can be found. For our part, we will be happy to extend all help toward this end, no matter what this requires, and will never tire of trying to bring the hearts and ways of thinking closer.

Knesset Members, this is the 41st year of the reestablishment of our sovereignty in our country. In the annals of an ancient people, this is a very brief period. We still face many challenges in the process of our revival before we reach peace with all our neighbors and arrive at harmony at home.

The biblical chapter for this week, which concludes the Book of Genesis, indeed reminds us that our national resurrection may have passed its genesis, but that the

road is still long. In this chapter, when Jacob blesses Judah, the entire history of Israel throughout the generations is hinted at, and he included words of encouragement for Israel's revival in its land, and I quote:

Judah is a lion's welp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as a lioness; who dares rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to Shiloh; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. [Genesis 49:9-10]

God willing, and out of faithful adherence to the eternal values of the Torah, whose ways are ways of pleasantness and all its paths are peace [allusion to prayer said upon the opening of the arc that holds the Torah scrolls], we will also attain peace.

Now, Mr Speaker, allow me to present before the Knesset the Cabinet I have formed, after having been entrusted with this mission by the honorable president of the state and by virtue of Article 15 of the Basic Law: the Government. I hereby ask the Knesset to vote its confidence in the Cabinet, whose basic guidelines have been presented to the Knesset. Following is the composition of the Cabinet and the distribution of portfolios among its members:

Yitzhaq Shamir—prime minister and minister of labor and social welfare.

Shim'on Peres—vice prime minister and finance minister.

David Levi—deputy prime minister and housing and construction minister.

Minister David Levi will serve as the second vice prime minister on those occasions when both the prime minister and the vice prime minister are out of the country.

Yitzhaq Navon—deputy prime minister and minister of education and culture.

Refa'el Edri—minister without portfolio.

Ehud Olmert—minister without portfolio.

Moshe Arens—foreign minister.

Hayim Bar-Lev—police affairs minister.

Mordekhay Gur—minister without portfolio.

Arye Der'i—interior minister.

'Ezer Weizman—minister of science and development.

Gad Ya'aqobi—communications minister.

Avraham Katz-'Oz—agriculture minister.

Yitzhaq Moda'i—economics and planning minister.

Roni Milo—minister for ecology and environmental protection.

Dan Meridor—minister of justice.

Moshe Nisim—minister without portfolio.

Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz—immigrant absorption minister.

Gid'on Pat—tourism minister.

Ya'aqov Tzur—health minister.

Moshe Qatzav—transportation minister.

Yitzhaq Rabin—defense minister.

Moshe Shahal—minister of energy and infrastructure.

Ari'el Sharon—industry and trade minister.

For the next few days, the prime minister will be in charge of the Religious Affairs Ministry. In a few days, two additional ministers—one from the Likud and another from the Alignment—will also be appointed. Thank you very much.

Peres Addresses Labor Central Committee

TA2112143188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1237 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Address by Shim'on Peres, Labor Party chairman, to Labor Party Central Committee session at Shavit Theater in Giv'atayim to endorse the coalition agreement with the Likud—live; monitored in progress]

[Text] It is better to talk to those who represent people than to those who carry out acts of terror. There is no doubt that our political way was the right one. We cautioned time and again that if there were no Jordanian-Palestinian option, the road would be paved for the PLO. This is what happened after the London agreement was sabotaged.

At the same time, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to tell you all that when we propose negotiations we should not count on the PLO, although the PLO has changed its statements. Only when it becomes clear that the situation has actually changed will there be any value to the change in statements.

We also told the Americans: We will judge matters according to events, not just by what we hear. We are very familiar with the gap between what the PLO says and what it does. I suggest to all of you, my comrades, who strive for negotiations just as I do, to draw a very clear distinction between declarations and actions.

In my opinion, had a government of the Likud and the religious parties been established, the process of annexation, isolation, and political confrontation with the world would have continued. By establishing the present government this process has been terminated.

I would like to tell the members of the Central Committee, and not just them: The Labor Party will continue to act on behalf of a political process wherever it may be. [applause] We have not retreated or changed our opinion. Contrary to those to the left of us, we have not lost our realistic outlook; contrary to those to the right of us, we have not lost our faith in peace and the peace process.

Second, the notion of crushing the intifadah [uprising] within 2 to 3 weeks entails a change of policy in the territories—a more radical and much different policy from the current one. I do not believe it would yield any results, but that it would be counterproductive. Those people who claim they know the way to put down the intifadah are the same people who drove us into the quagmire in Lebanon.

Why did they not settle affairs in Lebanon in 2 weeks or 1 month, despite all the means they had at their disposal? Notwithstanding events in the territories, in the defense of civilian lives—both Jewish and Arab—action is taken out of the belief that the solution for the territories is not merely military but also political, and this is the policy conducted by the defense minister. I suggest that this policy be pursued.

The third question I asked myself, ladies and gentlemen, is: The country is in severe distress. The number of unemployed exceeds 100,000; immigration is at an all-time low; there are indications that emigration from Israel is growing; the agricultural sector is in serious trouble; the industrial sector is in dire straits; the hotel business is in a slump. So, do you think we should gird our loins or not?

In agreeing to accept the finance portfolio, I have no illusion whatsoever about the difficulty, complexity, and distrust involved—and I know that some Likud ministers will be waiting on the sidelines watching for mistakes. Nevertheless, with pride and persuasion, I will roll up my sleeves and proceed to deal with social and economic affairs to remedy the serious situation we have run into. [applause]

It is not beneath my honor; it is an honor for all of us. Together with the Histadrut, the employers, and all other sectors of the economy—whether private, public, or state-owned—we will make a supreme effort to resume economic growth.

I ask myself: What sort of country do we want? Do we want it to drown in inflation, unemployment, and despair once again? Or should we gird our loins to pull it out of this situation?

I have said it before and I will repeat it now: I will not make any statements on economic affairs; it is too premature. I am sure, however, of one thing: That I will not turn my back on any problem, and I will not discriminate in favor of a particular sector. All the problems are ours, and all the sectors are ours. [applause]

The fourth thing I asked myself: Had a government made up of the Likud and the religious parties been established, I think we would have witnessed a rift such as we have never seen before within the Jewish people, not from the beginning of the Zionist movement until the foundation of the State of Israel.

I must say—and I know that all of you, my friends, feel likewise: We did not know that American Jews—and not just them—felt so deeply and were so sensitive about the Law of Return. I know that this law will remain unchanged when we establish the joint government. This is not because the Labor Party wants to ascribe Halakic knowledge to itself; the Labor Party does not presume to determine what conversion to Judaism according to the Halakah is. Rather, we want the Jewish people to live together as one.

In spite of what happened between us and the religious parties, I have no hard feelings toward anybody. We do not want to enforce antireligious coercion, just as we would not have accepted religious coercion. We have the unity of the Jewish people in mind. We do not want to discriminate against anybody or anything, be it religious Jews or religious education. By the same token, we do not want to grant hegemony to one Jewish movement over all other movements, because this would lead to a rift.

The fifth and last point: Had we not formed this government, I believe the current electoral system would have remained unchanged. I look at us and ask myself: What have we gained by all these negotiations, concessions, courting, and by being so flexible? I ask myself: Is it the result of our character or is it a consequence of our situation?

The electoral system in Israel creates a situation in which it is impossible to form a stable government. Our country knows the answers to all questions, except two: Who is a Jew, and who won the elections. After every election there are negotiations to ascertain who won them. Since 1981 the Likud has lost eight Knesset seats, and so have we. Twenty-seven lists ran in the last election, but only 15 were voted in. Only by terminating the dependence on the small parties will there be a real chance of effecting an electoral system that will enable Jewish democracy to exist, run affairs, elect a political way and representatives—these are the five testing points.

We will continue to carry the banner of the political process and peace. This is no question of a particular ministry; we remain an ideological movement. I told the Likud people: Although we will be taking part in a joint

government, just as you will not give up your ideology, so we will not forgo ours. The Labor Party will prefer a Jewish majority over the annexation of all the territories. [applause]

The Labor Party believes in peace rather than in not giving back even 1 inch. At the same time, the Labor Party remains a party of security and realism and will not be lured by words and formulas. As far as the territories are concerned, the Labor Party will continue to act based on the premise that the local inhabitants should be able to resume normal life while we attempt to put an end to violence and terror.

The Labor Party will continue to work for economic growth. It will strive for the unity of the Jewish people and for change.

I would like to say that at the beginning of the negotiations I received letters asking me: Why are you going with Tehiya, Moledet [Homeland], Tzomet [Junction]? My answer is: We love our homeland but we do not love the Moledet Party; we are at our own junction, the historical junction, and we have not changed our minds. This is a government with the two major parties at the center, and with an equal number of ministries and ideological banners. It is up to us to prove our historical justice. [applause]

'Basic Guidelines' of Unity Government Outlined

TA2112123788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Dec 88 p 2

[Document: "The Basic Guidelines of the Government Work Plan"]

[Text] At the center of the activity of the national unity government presented to the 12th Knesset are the following tasks:

1. (a) Recognition of the shared fate and common struggle of the Jewish people in the homeland and the diaspora;

(b) A sustained effort to create the social, economic, and spiritual conditions to achieve the State of Israel's central objective—the return of diaspora Jews to their homeland;

(c) Boosting immigration from all countries, encouraging immigration from Western countries, and consistently striving to save persecuted Jews by bringing them to safety and realizing their right to immigrate to Israel.

2. The central political objectives of the government during this period are: Continuing and extending the peace process in the region, consolidating the peace with Egypt, and ensuring the security of the northern settlements.

3. (a) The government will act to cultivate friendly relations and mutual ties between Israel and all peace-loving nations;

(b) The government will continue to foster the deepening of the ties of friendship and understanding between the U.S. and Israel;

(c) The government will strive for a resumption of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and with the countries that have severed their ties with Israel.

4. Israel's foreign and defense policies will aim to ensure the nation's independence, to better its security, and to establish peace with its neighbors.

5. The government will strive to increase the strength, deterrent capability, and endurance of the IDF against any military threat, and will take firm action against terror, regardless of its source. The IDF and other security forces will continue to act firmly to curtail the unrest, to prevent violence, to restore order, and to assure the safety of the inhabitants.

6. United Jerusalem, Israel's eternal capital, is one indivisible city under Israeli sovereignty; free access to their holy places and freedom of worship will continue to be guaranteed to members of all faiths.

7. The government will continue to place its desire for peace at the head of its concerns and will spare no effort to promote peace.

8. The government will work to promote and strengthen mutual ties with Egypt in accordance with the peace treaty. The government will call on Egypt to fulfill its part of the peace treaty with Israel, and to give it substance and content in keeping with the spirit of the treaty and the intentions of its signatories.

9. The government will work to continue the peace process in keeping with the framework for peace in the Middle East agreed upon at Camp David, and to resume negotiations to give full autonomy to the Arab residents in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District.

10. Israel will call on Jordan to begin peace negotiations, in order to begin a new page in the region, for the sake of the region's development and prosperity. The Israeli Government will consider proposals for negotiations.

11. The Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District will participate in determining their future, as stipulated in the Camp David accords. Israel will encourage representatives of the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to take part in the peace process.

12. Israel will oppose the establishment of an additional Palestinian state in the Gaza District and in the area between Israel and Jordan.

13. Israel will not negotiate with the PLO.

14. During the term of office of the unity government, there will be no change in the sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District except with the consent of the Alignment and the Likud.

15. (a) The existence and development of the settlements established by Israeli governments will be ensured (and the scope of their development will be decided on by the government); attached document "a" will specify various subjects on which there will be an agreement to implement them within this framework.

(b) 3-8 settlements will be set up within 1 year. (the names will spelled out in attached document "b")

(c) The settlements specified in attached document "c" will be set up in the following years on dates to be agreed on between the prime minister and the vice prime minister (Likud-Alignment) toward the end of the 1st year.

16. The government will do everything necessary to ensure peace for the Galilee.

17. The socio-economic policy will work to:

(a) Reduce the country's economic dependence by reducing the balance of payments deficit, increasing exports, and reducing imports;

(b) Stabilize the economy by checking inflation;

(c) Renew economic growth while maintaining full employment;

(d) Change the structure of the economy by enlarging and strengthening the export and productive sectors, and reducing the proportion of public and administrative services and government involvement.

(e) Encourage and extend the settlement areas and development towns throughout the country; distribute the (economic) burden fairly among all sectors of the public; and adequately maintain the systems of education, health, and housing.

18. To achieve these goals, the government will work to:

(a) Reduce public, civilian, and defense expenditure and consumption, and curb private consumption;

(b) Reach a socio-economic agreement with the Histadrut, the employers, and the other factors in the economy;

(c) Encourage various kinds of national saving;

(d) Promote and develop the capital market by gradually reducing the government's role therein;

(e) Reform the taxation system in order to encourage productivity, expand tax collection, and provide for just distribution of the tax burden;

(f) Provide support for the basic commodities so as to ensure regular supply, and as a means of agricultural planning while striving for a fixed rate of consumer price supports;

(g) Solve the grave condition of the retarded, children up to the age of 14 in boarding schools, and juvenile delinquents in jail.

19. The government will act to:

(a) Expand the infrastructure for technological services and render it more efficient; develop industries, increase investment, and establish high-technology enterprises;

(b) Bolster agriculture and increase exports of agricultural produce;

(c) Encourage domestic and incoming tourism;

(d) Maintain housing policies designed to absorb new immigrants and provide housing for young couples and large families;

(e) Build rental apartments at reasonable rents, especially for young couples and large families;

(f) Expand and intensify Project Renewal.

(g) The government will act to implement an overall reform in civil service, placing a special emphasis on its duty to improve the services extended to citizens.

20. The government will help sectors with national-social priority, including the settlement sector (in the framework of a recovery program), and development towns population.

21. The government will act to prevent emigration and to bring back to their homeland those citizens who have left.

22. The government will act to continue the development of the Arab and Druze sectors, and to complete masterplans for the Arab and Druze settlements, in order to enable future construction in accordance with the masterplans.

23. Special efforts will be made to integrate educated minority group members into government service and into various public institutions, in order to advance their participation in state and public responsibility.

24. The government will look into the issue of the Muslim religious trusts.

25. The principle of national ownership of the land will be preserved. A ministerial committee will be established to deal with exceptional cases.

26. The government will decide concerning the sale of business assets owned by the state.

27. The socioeconomic policy will be based on a comprehensive program which will be brought to the knowledge of the Knesset and the public, and will be implemented in a coordinated and consistent manner to attain its goals.

28. The government will continue to act to guarantee full equality of rights to all inhabitants, regardless of race, creed, nationality, sex, or ethnic origin.

29. The government will act to implement a reform of local government.

30. (a) The government will act to eliminate crime and violence and to instill recognition of the primacy of the rule of law;

(b) The police capability to fight crime in all its manifestations will be bolstered.

31. In order to bolster the state's democratic regime, and also to increase the government's ability to operate as a link between the electorate and the elected, the possibility of changing the government and election systems will be examined.

32. The unity of the nation and the proper functioning of society require the fostering of mutual tolerance and freedom of conscience and religion. The government will prevent all religious or antireligious coercion from any quarter; will guarantee public religious needs via the state; will maintain freedom of religion and conscience for all the non-Jewish communities; will supply their religious needs at public expense; and will assure a religious education for all children whose parents desire it.

33. The status quo in matters of religion in the state will be preserved.

34. Education will be founded on the eternal values of the Jewish people.

35. The government will carry out all the international commitments of the State of Israel.

SHAS Decides To Join Government Coalition

TA2112192588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] will also join the coalition. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that Arye Der'i will be appointed interior minister, while Yitzhaq Peretz will be appointed immigration absorption minister.

The Council of Torah Scholars decided that the agreement would be valid for 2 years, at which point it would reexamine SHAS participation in the coalition. The Council also decided to convene at a later date to decide on other SHAS members to be assigned to government positions.

As for the National Religious Party [NRP], it has been reported that it will sign an agreement with the Likud this evening. Prime Minister Shamir will sign a letter of commitment to the NRP, and the NRP Central Committee will decide on its representatives in the government in a meeting next Sunday.

Agudat Yisra'el To Join Government Coalition

TA2112203288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Agudat Yisra'el is also joining the broad-based government. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that this decision was made a short time ago, with the approval of the Council of Torah Sages, by Agudat Yisra'el's Central Committee Executive and Po'aley, Agudat Yisra'el's Secretariat. Agudat Yisra'el officials say they will determine with the Likud whether it intends to fulfill its promises on issues such as the Who Is A Jew amendment to the Law of Return.

According to them, if these laws are not enacted, they may quit the coalition any time they want.

Shamir Sees No Rift With Religious Parties

TA2112201988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by party affairs correspondent Hayim 'Azran in Shamir's office "this evening"—videorecorded]

[Text] ['Azran] Mr Prime Minister, now that the negotiations are over and the Likud has passed a decision, do you think you made a good deal?

[Shamir] It is not a question of deals or bargaining. I think that tomorrow we will be setting up the best government Israel can establish at the moment.

['Azran] The fate of the government and, as it appeared last night, perhaps even your own political future, were decided by a majority of only 100 members of the Likud Central Committee. What does that prove?

[Shamir] I would not rush to draw any conclusions from that fact. Obviously, there was a harsh and poignant argument and confrontation, and at times the confrontation was among the members themselves. The problem is indeed a serious and tough one, but the decision was made.

['Azran] Was it worth a rift with the religious parties?

[Shamir] I do not think there is a rift. Today they are having second thoughts about what they said yesterday in a fit of temper; people should not be judged by their behavior in times of anger. There is great desire on the part of all the religious parties to be part of the government.

['Azran] Sir, would you like the ultraorthodox parties to be part of the government?

[Shamir] I would like all the parties that do not object to the very establishment of this government to take part in it. Unity would then be greater and fuller.

['Azran] It has been disclosed that the coalition agreement with the Alignment includes some secret appendices which are mainly designed to define relations between yourself and Alignment leader Shim'on Peres. Why are such appendices necessary?

[Shamir] Nothing has changed; the same appendices were drawn upon the establishment of the outgoing government—we have not added or deleted anything. The establishment of such a government requires a special arrangement to regulate relations between the leaders of the two blocs.

['Azran] Sir, you have said that you want to prevent this government from repeating the misdeeds of the outgoing government. How will you go about preventing them?

[Shamir] I think we will prevent them. First of all, we can draw on our past experience. Experience is valuable, since we all know what can cause those misdeeds. I think that a good and close relationship between the leaders of the two blocs will help avert such misdeeds.

['Azran] The last question, sir: How soon are you going to change the electoral system?

[Shamir] We have not set a date. We just decided that the change in the administration system—and the emphasis is on the latter—would be effected during the current Knesset term. In other words, the next elections in 4 years will be conducted according to changes that would be approved by the new Knesset.

['Azran] Mr Prime Minister, thank you very much.

Shamir Said To Deny Remarks on IDF

TA2112142488 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 21 Dec 88 p 7

[Report by Shmu'el Tal and Yosi Werther]

[Text] A political source yesterday ridiculed remarks attributed to the prime minister that the appointment of a defense minister by the Likud would not be acceptable to the IDF. "The prime minister denied this, saying it is a blatant lie, and that somebody apparently distorted a phrase he uttered," said the source, who added that had officers come to Shamir to try to influence him to appoint a certain person to the Defense Ministry, he would have thrown them out of his office.

Defense sources recalled yesterday that after the elections, Chief of Staff Dan Shomron warned at a general staff forum that it would never occur to them to express political opinions.

The IDF spokesman yesterday also denied rumors that officers tried to influence the appointment of a defense minister. "It is a vicious lie which has no basis in reality. It is inconceivable for any officer to take such a step," the spokesman announced.

Citizens Rights Movement Knesset Member Ran Kohen called on the prime minister to apologize to the IDF command for his remarks.

Syria Backs Jibril 'Terrorists' Against 'Arafat

TA2212072888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Dec 88 p 2

[Report by Kenneth Kaplan]

[Excerpt] Syria is backing terrorist attacks in Europe by Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, in an effort to torpedo PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's efforts to improve ties with European countries, according to a report yesterday in the Italian newspaper EL'JOURNALE.

The paper claims that the head of the Syrian secret service, 'Ali Duba, was personally involved in the running of two terrorist rings captured recently in West Germany and Sweden, both of which were connected to Jibril's group.

Among the terrorists captured in Germany was Qasim Dalkamuni, known as Jibril's chief operations officer for overseas activities. At the time of his capture, Dalkamuni was carrying a Syrian passport stamped in Damascus, the paper said.

The groups in both Germany and Sweden had planned to blow up aircraft, the report said.

A police raid on 14 apartments in Uppsala, Sweden, netted large arms and ammunization caches which were used to blow up planes.

Among the items were barometric detonators, which are used to set off explosions at the low air pressures achieved at high altitudes. [passage omitted]

Force-17 Member Gets 30-Year Prison Term

TA2112172388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] The Lod Military Court today sentenced a terrorist, a member of Fatah's Force-17, to 30 years imprisonment. The terrorist, Salah Muhammad Hawara, aged 30, was convicted upon confessing to committing five terror acts in the heart of Israel. No one was hurt in any of the five incidents. The defendant took his sentence calmly and did not react.

IDF Soldier Dies of October Firebomb Wounds

TA2212091388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] Twenty-year-old David de la Rosa, an IDF soldier, died last night in a London hospital. He was seriously wounded 2 months ago when a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Egged bus in Jericho. The firebomb killed Rachel Weiss and her three children.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that David de la Rosa sustained serious lung injuries from smoke inhalation. He was sent to a London hospital for a heart and lung transplant, but died last night. A separate announcement will be issued on the funeral arrangements.

Further on Disturbances, Strikes in Territories

More on 20 Dec Events

TA2112143888 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Dec 88 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari and ITIM]

[Excerpt] The Unified National Command of the Uprising is urging the residents of the territories not to celebrate Christmas. This is the central message of leaflet No 31, which was disseminated yesterday throughout the territories.

The security establishment has made considerable efforts to persuade Bethlehem merchants to decorate their businesses and the municipal building for the holiday and to illuminate Bethlehem, as has been the practice in past years. Apparently, their efforts have so far been unsuccessful.

Quiet prevailed in the West Bank yesterday. The curfews on Nabulus, Qalqilyah, and the Balatah refugee camp remained in force, but were lifted from the 'Askar refugee camp, near Nabulus. A curfew was imposed on the Ayda refugee camp as an anti-riot measure.

In East Jerusalem, there were only scattered incidents of stone throwing around Abu Tor, Nahal Qidron, and the village of Silwan. One police van was slightly damaged in yesterday's incidents. One youth was detained.

In the Gaza Strip, the general strike ended abruptly and normal life resumed with almost no disturbances. An 18-year-old who was shot in the leg sustained a slight injury.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 21 December in a report by David Regev on page seven adds: "Five Gaza Strip youths were slightly injured by IDF gunfire yesterday, on a day described as relatively calm. The IDF spokesman has reported only one gunshot injury. Arab sources yesterday reported that youths rioted and threw stones during disturbances staged in the city of Gaza and in the Al-Nusayrat and Khan Yunus refugee camps."]

The curfews in the Al-Shati' and Al-Nusayrat refugee camps were lifted early yesterday morning but remain in effect in the township of Bani Suhaylah and in the Rafah, Al-Burayj, Al-Mughazi, Jabalyah, and Dayr al-Balah refugee camps. Trade was normal in Gaza, schools opened, and many workers left for jobs in Israel.

Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration in the territories, yesterday met with with a group of 20 industrialists and factory owners from the Ramallah area. He advised them of a series of measures the Civil Administration is about to introduce to facilitate the development of business investments and direct contacts with overseas countries.

A delegation of some 30 Christians from eight countries yesterday met with the Bethlehem governor, giving him a message of support and love from tens of thousands of Christians around the world. They thanked the IDF for the quiet maintained during the Christmas period and throughout the year. According to them, this proves that Israel must remain in Bethlehem and in the entire Judaea and Samaria area. [passage omitted]

7 Wounded in West Bank

TA2112171488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Seven Arab residents were wounded today in Judaea and Samaria. In Tubas, near Janin, 3 were wounded by IDF soldiers' gunfire. Two residents were wounded in the Tulkarm refugee camp and one was wounded in Salfit. In the village of Silwad in the Ramallah District, a resident who threw stones at IDF soldiers was wounded.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that there were many stonings in the Gaza Strip today, but no injuries were reported. All eight Gaza Strip refugee camps were under curfew again today, as was the Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza city.

Today, a border patrol unit was stationed in Qalqilyah for the first time. This was done in an attempt to stop the stone throwing in the area. A general commercial strike was staged today in the territories.

Curfews Lifted in Gaza Strip

TA2212121288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Text] The Gaza Strip is experiencing a normal day today after almost a week of strikes, disturbances, and curfews. The curfew was lifted early this morning from all eight refugee camps in the region and remained in effect only in the Shabura neighborhood in Gaza, where violent disturbances took place last weekend.

Everything is different in the Gaza Strip today. Commercial life has resumed, vehicle traffic in the towns is back to normal, schools are open, and most salaried laborers left for work in Israel this morning.

Dozens of attorneys in the Gaza Strip have also recently returned to normal work, following a strike which lasted more than 10 months. Local attorneys have already turned up at the military court in Gaza to defend residents charged with disturbances and stone throwing. The attorneys are still staying away from work at the civilian courts as a last measure in their long-lasting protest. They said, however, that they will return to work there as well in the coming days.

Over the past 24 hours, Brigadier General Arye Ramot, the head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, as well as staff officers dealing with religious and internal affairs have distributed 200 cypress trees to the Christian families in Gaza on the occasion of Christmas.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 22 December reports that "masked, unknown people burned the shop and stoned the house of the mukhtar of the village of ('Azaywah) in Samaria. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the security forces rushed to rescue the mukhtar, but the assailants had managed to escape. Nobody was hurt. The house of the mukhtar was damaged and, as said, his shop was burned."]

Nabulus Declared Closed Zone

TA2212152588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] Two youths in Nabulus were shot by the IDF when soldiers dispersed people throwing stones at IDF personnel and Israeli vehicles. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the wounded youths were transferred to Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus.

At noon, only hours after a curfew was lifted, Nabulus was declared a closed military zone.

King on End of Iraq-Iran War, 'Uprising'

JN2112130288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, has said our region has recently entered a new phase through two main gates.

The first is the gate of peace and stability in the Arabian Gulf which the fraternal Iraqi people have opened with their outstanding steadfastness, rallying around their wise leadership, and the sacrifices of their brave Army in defense of Iraq and the Arab nation.

The second is the gate of Palestine, which the struggling Palestinian people have opened with their heroic resistance, generous giving, lofty resistance, and daily precious sacrifices.

His majesty added that the main landmarks of the current phase so far are the beginning of the peace talks between fraternal Iraq and Iran under the supervision of the United Nations and the U.S. action to hold a direct substantive dialogue with the PLO.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the 29th class from the Command and Staff College at noon today, his majesty said: The Arab-Israeli conflict, of which the Palestine question is the core and substance, is one of the oldest regional conflicts.

Therefore, it cannot but get the attention and concentration it deserves from the United Nations and the permanent member states of the Security Council, especially in light of the constructive and courageous stand which the PLO has adopted through the chairman of its Executive Committee before the UN General Assembly, a stand which was welcomed and appreciated by all the world's nations and peoples with the exception of Israel.

His majesty said: The Israeli leadership must realize—while the region today is on the threshhold of a new phase created by the recent developments headed by the Palestinian peace initiative—that the occupation of a homeland against the wishes of its people cannot continue and that the colonization of peoples no longer exists except in history books.

Insisting on colonialism will only bring pain and suffering to both the colonialist and the colonized. The Israeli leadership has only to examine the nature of the Palestinian people's uprising, which has entered its 2d year, to realize the futility of its game of stubborness and haughtiness.

His majesty said: It is time Israel understood the significance of the fact that the creators of the uprising are young men and women and children, who not only represent more than 70 percent of the population, but also embody the continuity of the uprising. Thus, the uprising has become an endless river of anger that seeks to settle down and stabilize in the lake of justice, freedom, and peace, not in a swamp that can be dried out.

His majesty affirmed that the new phase calls for joint concerted efforts not only on the international level, but more than that, on the Arab level. He added: Acting upon this conviction, we will continue to cooperate and to coordinate with all the Arab brothers, headed by the PLO, which is assuming its historic duty with full responsibility and competence.

We will also continue the dialogue with all influential world governments and forces in order to convene the international conference for peace in the Middle East. God willing, your Jordan will remain as usual the genuine Arab homeland and the inheritor of a noble mission which faithfully upholds its principles and believes in its nation and its future.

Cabinet Endorses New Law on Companies

JN2112095488 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The Council of Ministers met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i Tuesday and endorsed the new companies law which was recently amended to conform with the latest developments in the national economy and special legal relationships and to unify legislation after plugging inadequacies in the old law.

In addition, a cabinet statement said, the new law is also aimed at facilitating new avenues for investments.

The cabinet also endorsed a new amended law on income tax and another law on axial load of vehicles.

Swiss Ambassador, ICRC Workers Depart

NC2112202688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Swiss Ambassador Dino Sciolli and his wife left Lebanon through Juniyah a short time ago. They were accompanied by three employees of the International Committee of the Red Cross and nine Swiss nationals.

Further on Departure

NC2112212988 Paris AFP in English 2119 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Beirut, Dec 21 (AFP)—The Swiss ambassador to Lebanon left here late Wednesday by sea for the south-eastern Cypriot port city of Larnaca, from where he was to return home, an authoritative Lebanese source said.

Ambassador Dino Sciolli left from the port of Juniyah, north of Beirut, in the Christian-dominated sector of Lebanon along with his wife and nine Swiss bodyguards, the source said.

According to shipping sources for the Baroness-M shuttle service between Juniyah and Larnaca, 11 diplomats boarded the vessel along with three remaining delegates from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Lebanon.

Correspondents attempting to telephone the Swiss Embassy here got no reply and informed sources said that only Lebanese personnel at the embassy remained.

The last three remaining delegates of the ICRC based here also boarded the vessel, correspondents reported.

On Tuesday, the Red Cross decided to withdraw all of its 17 delegates here four days after a Swiss ICRC delegate, Peter Winkler, was freed from more than a month of captivity in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Winkler was kidnapped by an unidentified group but was freed on Friday and returned to Switzerland on Sunday.

Mr. Sciolli had told a Lebanese Foreign Ministry official he would return to Bern to review the ICRC withdrawal, correspondents reported.

According to political circles in Beirut, the withdrawals are probably tied to preparations for the upcoming trial in Switzerland of Lebanese Shi'ite Muhammad 'Ali al-Hariri in connection with the hijacking of an Air Afrique passenger plane in July 1987 and the alleged murder of a French passenger.

(In Bern, a Swiss Foreign Ministry spokesman said late Wednesday his country had decided to recall Mr. Sciolli because his life was endangered, and confirmed that the ambassador and his wife had already left Beirut for Larnaca.

(Analysts in Switzerland believe Mr. Winkler's captors had hoped to influence Mr. al-Hariri's case and pressure his judges into having his sentence reduced to the minimum.

(Sources in Bern said only six Swiss nationals remain in Lebanon.)

On December 6, the Swiss Government urged all 170 of its remaining nationals here to leave Lebanon.

UK Appeals to Nationals To Leave Areas

NC2112131188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] The practices which had affected the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] have not spared Britons. Accordingly, the British Government has asked all of its nationals to leave West Beirut, the South, and the Al-Biqa' valley.

An official spokesman for the UK Embassy in Lebanon has explained the embassy's appeal to British nationals to leave West Beirut, southern Lebanon, and the Al-Biqa'. He has told the Voice of Lebanon that this appeal is part of the official policy of the British Government, which warns its nationals from time to time.

The spokesman did not disclose whether there are still Britons in the abovementioned areas, but said that the UK decision takes into account Britons who bear more than one nationality, even those of Lebanese nationality.

The spokesman was asked: How can you warn British nationals against residing in West Beirut, southern Lebanon, and the Al-Biqa', while at the same time the UK ambassador visits these areas and meets with key figures there?

He replied: The British ambassador is accredited throughout Lebanon and is, therefore, forced to take maximum security measures wherever he goes. He added: The statement issued by the British Government applies to all British nationals. Important reasons are behind the decision.

Responding to a question on these reasons, the spokesman said only that a Briton named (Yurg Berg) was killed last week.

Al-Huss Denounces Threats to ICRC Workers

NC2112172788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Government [of Dr Salim al-Huss] regrets and denounces the threats to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] representatives, saying that these threats run counter to the ICRC's noble humanitarian goals.

It has asked Salim Naffa', Lebanon's delegate to the international organizations in Geneva, to exert his utmost to persuade the ICRC to rescind its decision to halt its operations in Lebanon.

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Salim al-Huss telephoned ICRC representative in Lebanon Michel le Coeur and asked him for the reasons for the decision. [passage omitted]

Conference Condemns 'Arafat's 'Defeatism'

NC2212081788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] The first world conference for supporting the Islamic uprising in Palestine resumed its work at the Carlton Hotel in West Beirut yesterday, holding a morning and an evening session.

The evening session was addressed by Dr 'Ali 'Ammar, official in charge of the political affairs of the Islamic group in Sidon. He emphasized that the Palestine revolution is an all-embracing movement that emanates from Islamic bases. He maintained that the Islamic nation is the strategic depth for liberating Palestine. Dr 'Ammar urged all Muslims to marshal their efforts in support of the uprising.

Hizballah's speech was delivered by His Eminence Ibrahim al-Amin. He greeted the uprising and its symbols—ulema, children, elderly men and women—stressing that the Islamic movement in Lebanon, which had defeated the Multinational Forces and Zionist enemy, was a prelude to the Islamic uprising in Palestine. Al-Amin went on to say that there is no force on earth that can halt the uprising because its people have taken it upon themselves to wage war. These people, he added, alone can make a decision on both war and peace.

He pointed out that the U.S. course represented in 'Arafat's defeatism constitutes a threat to Palestine and the entire region. His eminence called for supporting the uprising to ensure its continuity and to avoid schemers from exploiting it. Al-Amin urged the Islamic Repubic of Iran and Syria to safeguard Islam and the people of the uprising in their main battle against Israel.

Meanwhile, a cassette-recorded message from Shaykh As'ad al-Tamimi, a key figure in the Islamic uprising in Palestine, was read during the conference. The Jordanian authorities prevented Al-Tamimi from attending the conference.

In his message, Al-Tamimi addressed the conferees and the people of the uprising, saying: Do not pay attention to the solutions and decisions because recognition of a Jewish state in Palestine is against the Islamic shari'a. He vehemently attacked the defeatist traitors and emphasized that the Jews are heading toward extinction and will not remain in Palestine.

Abu Fadi Hammad [not further identified] said that the continuation of the uprising is a direct answer to the Algiers resolutions.

The first session started at 0900 yesterday. The speakers reiterated their support for the Islamic uprising in the occupied land and for expanding it to cover other areas in the world because the battle against Zionism is one of survival, not one of boundaries. They maintained that the plans being hatched in international meetings through the defeatist Palestinian tools aim to liquidate the Palestinian cause.

The Islamic Movement in Palestine [al-harakah al-islamiyah fi filastin] has issued a statement, calling on the Islamic ulema to formulate a unified strategy for jihad against Israel and to form an Islamic surge in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon to confront the deviationist Palestinian leaders who naively believe that the Jews will accept the international conference and negotiations.

The statement affirms that the Palestinian people alongside the Muslim mujahedin will prove to 'Arafat that Israel will not make any concessions except when the guns are raised under the slogan of wiping Israel out of existence.

The Islamic movement concludes its statement by addressing greetings to the heroes of the blessed Islamic uprising. It affirms that victory can only be achieved by the faithful fists in southern Lebanon represented in the Islamic resistance and Islamic mujahedin in Palestine.

Al-Husayni Cited on Quest for Electoral Accord

PM2212092488 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Dec 88 p 3

[Interview with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni by Ghassan Shirbil in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shirbil] Some deputies have told us that you seek to formulate an overview to overcome the present crisis. Could you explain this overview to us?

[Al-Husayni] Numerous efforts are being made through various channels to eliminate the obstacles to the constitutional election deadline. We are working dynamically to draw up an overview of the bases and principles of national accord and political reform in the form of a document to be issued by the Chamber of Deputies.

On the basis of this document an understanding on a presidential candidate will be reached. Then a session will be held to elect the chamber's speaker and to endorse the document as a moral pledge. Immediately after that the president of the Republic will be elected during the same session. Obviously that session will facilitate the formation of a national accord government—which,

together with the president of the Republic, the government, and the Chamber of Deputies, will assume the task of achieving accord in stages.

[Shirbil] For the first time since the war started splits have emerged within the Chamber of Deputies. What is the scale of these splits?

[Al-Husayni] Despite all the obstacles designed to restrict deputies' freedom and to prevent them from convening a session, the Chamber of Deputies has displayed notable solidarity through its deputies—which reflects the unity of both the chamber and the homeland. My contacts with my colleagues will not be interrupted. The deputies are agreed on the basic principles of reform. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] General 'Awn said once that he does not accept the Lebanese president's "appointment" according to the U.S.-Syrian agreement. Does this agreement still stand?

[Al-Husayni] There is U.S.-Syrian agreement on the broad outlines of how to reach a solution in Lebanon. Such harmony emerged as a result of the international detente which has resulted in a decision to resolve regional conflicts. We believe that many states support this approach. The Syrian side does not represent Syria alone; it represents Arab wishes.

And the American side does not represent the U.S. Administration alone. As for the moving of the chamber's headquarters, this is partly attributable to security shortcomings and to Gen 'Awn's implication in electoral matters and, recently, his involvement in a government that virtually represents a military coup.

[Shirbil] Some quarters are talking of a setback to Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sufayr' initiative, whose aim is to facilitate an agreement on a moderate presidential election. In your view, what has the initiative achieved?

[Al-Husayni] In fact it would be a great mistake for anyone to call Patriarch Sufayr's efforts an initiative or to link such efforts to a particular date or method. It is an endeavor by a senior religious figure, but it is not confined to the Maronite Patriarchate alone. In fact all other religious figures are working hard to achieve the same objective. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] Did the patriarch not reveal the list of names he conveyed to the Americans, who in turn forwarded it to Damascus?

[Al-Husayni] I met with the patriarch's envoy, but no one talked to me about a list or the nomination of certain candidates. I told the patriarch's envoy that such an approach is against the patriarch' endeavors, since we must first agree on the principles because it would facilitate agreement on names. [passage omitted]

Qabalan Calls for Ending Amal-Hizballah Conflict

NC2112074088 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 MT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan has called on the Amal Movement and Hizballah to end their bloody conflict and assassinations. He added that the unreasonable media campaigns should be halted and the attackers and murderers of people and the murderers of Brothers Dawud Dawud, Mahmud Faqih, and Hasan Subayti should be uncovered as a prelude to such a step. Mufti Qabalan also called for complete disarmament, particularly in the southern suburb and West Beirut.

Shaykh Qabalan said that Iran can stop the conflict between the two parties because it supports Hizballah with weapons, equipment, and money. He added that those who came to Lebanon had conveyed a distorted picture to the Iranian leadership.

In a press interview Shaykh Qabalan said that the proposal for the establishment of an Islamic Republic in Lebanon is mere words, as Islam is expressed through deeds and actions.

He pointed out that he is not optimistic with regard to Shaykh Shams al-Din's visit to Tehran, and revealed that he had opposed that visit. He affirmed his rejection of political decentralization, noting that the 1943 formula is antiquated.

Shaykh Qabalan maintained that the South can be liberated through the implementation of the truce agreement and the UN Security Council resolutions. He stressed: We are not ready to become border guards for Israel. He expressed the belief that the Army and UNIFIL can protect the borders, and said that the resistance will continue as long as the border strip remains occupied.

Mufti Qabalan described the kidnapping of hostages as a wicked action which is not designed to serve Islam. He said that the party which instigates kidnappings should carry out such an act in its own country.

DFLP Official Kidnapped in Sidon Area 16 Dec

NC2112122688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] According to security reports, DFLP official Mazin al-Majdhub was kidnapped last Friday [16 December] while on his way from the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp to his house in Sidon.

A DFLP source expressed fear that the aim of the kidnapping is to create tension in Sidon.

Al-Asad Briefs Lawyers on Foreign Relations

JN2112191388 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] At 1200 today, President al-Asad received a delegation from the Arab Lawyers Union, which included Faruq abu 'Isa, Ahmad al-Khawaja, Husayn Mujali, Sulayman al-Hadidi, Yasir 'Amr, Muhammad Sabri Mubdi, Muhammad 'Ulwan, Muhammad 'Id, Ahmad Yahya, Zuhayr al-Midani, Ihsan al-Kayyali, and Fu'ad Yasin.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Tawfiq Salhah, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, and the president and members of the Lawyers Union in Syria.

During the meeting, the conversation dealt with the situation on the Arab arena, Arab relations, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The lawyers praised the stands of Syria and its leadership and expressed their pride in these pan-Arab stands and in Syria's steadfastness and sacrifices for the sake of the pan-Arab issues.

The lawyers touched on Arab solidarity and the cleansing of the Arab atmosphere. The president asserted that Syria has been and will remain part of Arab solidarity vis-a-vis the dangers that threaten the nation and its pan-Arab causes.

The lawyers raised the subject of Syrian-Iraqi relations. The president pointed out that in the past, attempts had been made to treat these relations but had not succeeded.

He also pointed out that Syria supports any Arab solidarity endeavor and that things are left to the future in light of the circumstances and facts that may emerge.

The lawyers also raised the subject of Syrian-Egyptian relations. The president affirmed Syria's pan-Arab position on these relations and its appreciation of the importance of Egypt, its Arab role, and the sacrifices of its people in the common Arab struggle against the enemy.

His excellency said that the subject of these relations imposes responsibilities on both Syria and Egypt, which they must carry out. He added that cooperation between Syria and Egypt on pan-Arab bases has always been in the interest of Egypt, Syria, and the Arab nation.

Commentary Views Israeli Coalition Agreement

JN2112212588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return" by Ibrahim Basyuni]

[Text] O brothers on the road of revolution and liberation: The Likud and the Alignment have shared most of the ministerial portfolios in the coalition government that will be formed by Likud leader Yitzhaq Shamir.

It has been decided, as stated by news agencies, that Alignment leader Shim'on Peres will be given the Finance Ministry portfolio, while the Foreign Ministry portfolio will go to Moshe Arens of the Likud.

As for the Ministry of War [as heard], it will remain the share of Yitzhaq Rabin, who enjoys the support of the two big parties because of his supervision of the iron-fist policy being pursued by the Zionist troops in the occupied Arab territories.

The Likud and Alignment have agreed that each will have an equal number of ministerial portfolios.

This agreement has come about after 50 days of bargaining among various Zionist parties. We are especially referring to these bargains that the religious and ultra-rightist parties sought to impose on the two major parties, the Likud and the Alignment.

This means that the agreement of the Likud and the Alignment to enter into a coalition government has dealt a blow to the religious parties, which have been, over the past weeks of following the Zionist elections, bargaining with the Alignment and the Likud to obtain concessions in harmony with with their religous and political programs and stands.

Hence, these parties' reactions to the move by the two big parties, particularly the Likud, was anger. The religious parties leveled scathing criticism of the Likud because of the latter's failure to honor the agreements signed with these parties to form a narrow Likud-led coalition government with the participation of the religious parties, which have continued for long years to tip the balance in any coalition led by the Likud or the Alignment.

This pertains to the effects and repercussions of the Likud-Alignment agreement on the partisan level in the Zionist entity.

As for the repercussions of this agreement on the Palestinian cause, which is more important for us, we can affirm that the two big parties have agreed anew to continue pursuing the policy of successive Zionist governments against our Palestinian Arab people and their legitimate national rights.

The two big parties in the Zionist entity have agreed to establish eight Zionist settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip next year.

They have also agreed to continue—nay, to escalate—the terrorist and criminal practices against the uprising being staged by our kinfolk in the occupied territories with the aim of quelling it and quenching its flame.

The initial signs of this agreement took the form of the perpetration of the Zionist massacre against the city of Nabulus, which resulted in the martyrdom of eight persons in 1 day.

Moreover, the two big parties, the Likud and the Alignment, affirmed in their new coalition agreement their rejection of the independent Palestinian state and asserted their adherence to autonomy for the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as stipulated in the Camp David accords.

Hence, as is clear in the Likud-Alignment agreement, the course of events in the Zionist entity has proved anew beyond any shadow of a doubt the homogeneity and unity of the Zionist political forces, whether rightist, religious, or alleged leftist.

All these Zionist parties and political forces drink from the same spring—namely, the Zionist movement, which seeks to establish greater Israel extending from the Nile to the Euphrates. All of these Zionist parties and forces are agreed on issues pertaining to the Palestinian issue and withdrawal from the occupied territories.

They reject withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, particularly their right to establish their independent state.

Furthermore, these parties cling to the territories and the continued pursuit of the policy of settlement and Judaization—this policy that can be considered as a key pillar in the hostile, expansionist, and racist course which has been pursued by the Zionist movement.

Kurdish Leader Briefs Iranian Diplomat

LD2112140788 Tehran IRNA in English 0713 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus, Dec. 21, IRNA—Leader of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party Masud Barazani met with Iranian charge d'affairs Mahdi Marvi here Tuesday night.

Barazani briefed the Iranian diplomat on crimes of the Baghdad regime against the country's Kurdish population and the new plan for formation of a united front of dissident Iraqi groups against the regime.

Barazani is currently here for talks with Syrian officials.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Hints at Willingness To Step Down

BK2212020888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0154 GMT 22 Dec 88

[By Kate Webb]

[Excerpts] Kabul, Dec 22 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah said mujahidin resistance talks with Moscow were a turning point in the nine-year-long Afghan war, but warned of bloodshed should the rebels seek a military solution.

The president also hinted strongly that he would be willing to relinquish the presidency, a mujahidin demand, in the interests of peace, and even lay down his life for peace.

"If in the future the people have another wish, then their wish will be respected," Mr. Najibullah told three journalists, including an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent, in an interview Wednesday [21 December] at the presidential palace here.

"The fact that the opposition (the mujahidin) have decided after nine years to come to the negotiating table is a turning point," a relaxed Mr. Najibullah said. "They understand they cannot win (the war) by military means."

"But suppose for a moment they continue to opt for a military solution, then this conflict will continue," he added.

The last of some 115,000 Soviet troops are scheduled to leave Afghanistan by February 15 under the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, an estimated 25,000 of them guarding the perimeter of Kabul.

Moscow said Tuesday that the pullout could be effected within two weeks. [passsage omitted]

Asked to comment on diplomatic speculation that his government's exclusion from direct Soviet-mujahidin talks meant that Moscow was ditching him and his People's Democratic Party of afghanistan (PDPA), Mr. Najibullah replied that the talks were a victory for his government.

"Common sense is coming to prevail on those forces (the mujahidin) to permit a political settlement," he said. "If they thought they could win by military means, why would they come to the table?...There can be no military solution to this war, only a political solution."

The president added that his government had been proposing peace talks and a broad-based coalition government for the past two years, and that in its talks with the mujahidin Moscow was "in full understanding" with his government.

He also said he was convinced that despite the fact that the mujahidin, the Pakistani Government and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz had rejected a January 1 in-place cease-fire proposed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on December 7, all three still held the proposal under "serious consideration."

On Tuesday Afghan Vice President 'Abdulhamid Mohtat told AFP in an interview here that a cease-fire was essential to prevent an escalation in the bloodshed after the Soviet withdrawal.

Mr. Mohtat appealed to the United States, as a guarantor of the Geneva agreements and as a world power, to help bring the mujahidin alliance, which is based in Pakistan, to the negotiating table.

Commenting on Soviet determination to go ahead with the troop withdrawal in the absence of a political settlement, Mr. Najibullah said that both Moscow and Kabul would abide by the April 1988 Geneva accords.

But he said the situation would be unbalanced if other forces involved did not abide by the accords, which were signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan and guaranteed by the United States and the Soviet Union.

However the president remained adamant that the communist PDPA should not only form the basis of any broad-based coalition government, but also be party to further talks between Moscow and the mujahidin.

"Without the PDPA this problem will not be solved ... Otherwise the dialogue will lose its meaning," Mr. Najibullah said.

He described the 200,000-strong PDPA as the architect of the peace talks and said the policy it had pursued in the past two years provided the backdrop to the mujahidin-Soviet negotiations.

"We are of the conviction that the existence and the strength of the PDPA cannot be ignored in the formation of an acceptable government in the future of Afghanistan," he said.

"On the contrary (to reports that Moscow is considering dropping the PDPA), this party can be a powerful base for a future coalition government," Mr. Najibullah said.

Asked about reports that he himself was the prime mujahidin target, Mr. Najibullah asked why after so many years of war the bitterest fights were still between rival mujahidin groups rather than against his government.

"Why do they wage war against each other (if I am the prime target)?" He asked.

A Western diplomat here has said Mr. Najibullah's statements in the past month that the PDPA must be included in a coalition government and that the Afghan Government is fully a party to the talks were "whistling in the wind."

But diplomats concede that unless the problem of the army and the party in Kabul is solved before the Soviet withdrawal, a civil war or anarchy could follow the pullout, now seen by many party members as a betrayal.

The U.S., French and several other embassies have reinforced their gates with barbed wire and steel plates.

U.S., French Journalists Interview Najibullah

LD2212093588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 21, BAKHTAR—President of the Republic of Afghanistan, Najibullah received here today, Mary Walsh, reporter of American daily WALL STREET JOURNAL, Ketcetchy Kater [spelling as received], director of regional department agency of FRANCE PRESS in New Delhi, and Steven Lovin, correspondent of daily CHICAGO TRIBUNE and NEWSDAY for an interview.

While replying to the questions of journalists, President Najibullah, talked about the victories achieved since the proclamation of national reconciliation policy, Al-Ta'if talks, needs for the formation of a broad based coalition government and the recent proposals set forth by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CC and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet at the 43rd session of UN General Assembly on settlement of the situation around Afghanistan.

Najibullah Receives Paktia Province Tribal Elders

LD2112234488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, received the elders and chiefs of the Jaji tribes, Paktia Province, this afternoon at the headquarters of the Presidential Office.

At this meeting esteemed Najibullah spoke about the issues relating to the consolidation of security in Paktia Province. He also heard and noted the elders' local problems and difficulties.

At this meeting the representatives of Jaji people expressed their people's readiness to further consolidate security in their regions and implement of humane objectives of the national reconciliation policy. They promised esteemed Najibullah they will spare no effort in devotion to this cause.

Rebel Leader on Talks With USSR, Government

PM2112111688 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 17 Dec 88 p 5

[Interview with mujahidin leader Sebghatullah Mujaddedi by Muhammad al-Khudari; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] Sebghatullah Mujaddedi, who in the next few days will succeed Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani as leader of the Afghan mujahidin alliance, has emphasized that there are programs and plans which will be implemented in Afghanistan in the future. What concerns us in the near future, he said, is to agree unanimously on the next Afghan president. [passage omitted]

[Al-Khudari] Do you believe that the Soviets will withdraw on schedule?

[Mujaddedi] Yes, they will. They have emphasized this several times.

[Al-Khudari] You are to hold another round of talks with the Soviets, but no date has been set. Could you elaborate on this?

[Mujaddedi] The Soviets have announced their readiness to negotiate with us unconditionally. It is up to us to decide the venue.

[Al-Khudari] Does this prove the mujahidin's strength and their resolute position?

[Mujaddedi] Yes, of course. For the past 10 years the Soviets have not recognized the mujahidin. They even used to talk with the Pakistani Government through the agent Kabul government. But now they want to meet and talk with us—which proves the mujahidin's strength. This is because the Russians have almost been defeated in Afghanistan, both militarily and politically.

[Al-Khudari] How do you view the future talks with the Soviet Union, especially since 10 years of war cannot be overcome by one or two meetings?

[Mujaddedi] I believe the Soviet Union must withdraw from Afghanistan somehow or other—and very soon. They demanded that the agent government's members be included in the provisional government, but we rejected the proposal, because we cannot allow those who inflicted destruction, war, and murder on us to share power.

We also rejected a cease-fire as long as the Soviet Army is in Afghanistan. The Soviets must cease their support for the surrogate government. I believe that the next negotiations will produce very important results. [passage omitted]

[Al-Khudari] One your main demands is that the Soviet Union pay compensation for the destruction inflicted on Afghanistan, but the $600 million which Rabbani has said they agreed to pay is not enough for the rebuilding process. Can you elaborate on this?

[Mujaddedi] We have not yet officially asked the Soviets for compensation. Before the negotiations they themselves announced that they would pay that sum as aid, not as compensation. When we next meet with them, and when the negotiations produce positive results, we must ask them to participate in the rebuilding process. But we must be careful to ensure that they do not exploit that aid by carrying out certain activitiesweithin Afghanistan or by trying to spread communism. [passage omitted]

[Al-Khudari] When will the Islamic government be formed? Is its formation linked to the Soviet withdrawal?

[Mujaddedi] When we return to Pakistan.

[Al-Khudari] Does this mean you will form a government-in-exile?

[Mujaddedi] Yes, we will form a government there. When the Russians withdraw the government will then move to Afghanistan, namely, to the liberated areas, which represent more than 80 percent of the country. We are in complete control of these areas, which are run by the mujahidin.

[Al-Khudari] How will your relations be with neighbors such as Pakistan and Iran? And how will they be with India?

[Mujaddedi] Undoubtedly Pakistan has helped us in many matters. Our relations with it are good, and they will be even better after the Russians depart. The same applies to Iran as a Muslim country. We have 1.5 million refugees there. We will have good relations with it. And I hope that they have no intention of interfering in our internal affairs, because that would cause many problems.

As for India, we do not share borders with it, and the Indian Government's position toward our jihad has not been friendly. They support the Russian presence in Afghanistan. If they do not interfere in our affairs, and if they improve their relations with us, we want to improve our relations with them.

Alliance Leader, Delegation To Visit Iran

BK2112165888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1635 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 21 (AFP)—The chief of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance based in Peshawar is to go to Iran soon for talks with Iranian authorities and Afghan guerrillas based there, resistance sources said Wednesday.

Burhanuddin Rabbani will lead a delegation of seven members representing all guerrilla parties based in the Pakistani border town to brief the Iranian-based mujahidin on his recent talks with Soviet leaders in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, on the Afghan conflict and the return of prisoners of war, the sources said.

No departure date was announced.

The decision was taken at a supreme council meeting in Peshawar Wednesday, the sources said, adding that the next round of talks with Soviets would be held after Mr. Rabbani's visit to Iran.

An eight-party alliance of Shi'a mujahidin is based in Iran, where more than two million Afghan refugees live.

In Pakistan there are about three million refugees as well as the seven-party Sunni mujahidin alliance.

20 Missiles Aimed Against Kabul 'Neutralized'

LD2112202688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMt 21 Dec 88

[Text] Quoting authorized Armed Forces sources, BAKHTAR reports that yesterday and today units and companies of the country's Armed Forces carried out mopping-up operations in some parts of the country to maintain peace and security.

Some 20 surface-to-surface missiles which were about to be launched against Kabul city, were neutralized today in parts of the Mir Bacheh Kowt District, Kabul Province.

As a result of a mopping-up operation in the suburbs of Jalalabad city, five enemy hideouts, one rocket missile, one recoilless gun, one DSHK and scores of antivehicle and antipersonnel mines were destroyed. A number of individuals belonging to extremist armed groups were also killed and wounded.

Some 27 surface-to-surface missiles, 525 mortar mines, 60 hand grenades, and thousands of rounds of assorted ammunition were seized when the Armed Forces carried out mopping-up operations in Farah Province; 3 surface-to-surface missles, 2 recoilless guns, 3 rocket launchers, 1 DShK, and 17 enemy hideouts were destroyed.

As a result of Armed Forces operations in the Mehtarlam city suburbs and the villages of Alishang District in the province, in Dowlatabad District in Faryab Province and in the Feyzabad city suburbs in Badakhshan Province, a number of extremists were killed and wounded. One enemy weapons and ammunition cache and four horses carrying weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

Extremist armed individuals launched 1,700 surface-to-surface missiles against suburban parts of Gardeyz city, Paktia Province. They faced reciprocal shattering blows by the Armed Forces of Paktia Province. As a result 85

extremists were killed, 71 were wounded, and scores of rounds of ammunition, one missile launcher, 75 assorted weapons, and 3 enemy vehicles carrying weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

Details of Foiled Rebel Attack on Mehtarlam

LD2112132488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 19, BAKHTAR—The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) fully supported by the peace-loving people have foiled the evil plans of the extremists in Mehtarlam city, centre of Laghman Province, and bravely defended peace and security in that province, writes a military commentator of BIA.

Although with the announcement of national reconciliation policy aimed at ensurance of peace and ending of war and fratricide in the country, a number of armed opposition groups refrain from continuation of war, but leaders of extremists and their supporters observed their hostile plans endanger with the ending of war in the RA.

Thus, they approached irresponsibly vis-a-vis this humanistic policy and tried hard to step up war and destruction by sending deadly weapons to Afghan territory.

Extremist groups wildly rocketed residential areas and cities, and at the same time the Western mass media launched hue and cry that this or that city fell at the hands of extremists.

They even fixed dates for fall of Qandahar and Nangarhar Provinces. But our people have witnessed of the fact that the Armed Forces with the help and support of heroic people inflicted heavy blows on them and they may not forget these lessons.

This time once again the extremist groups with the help of their patrons had designed plans beyond the border on the fall of Mehtarlam, centre of Laghman Province. They wanted to reach this goal by sending over 2000 persons to the city. But this time too the Armed Forces stationed in Laghman Province with the direct cooperation of the people of the province, bravely defended the city and other villages against the extremists attacks.

The enemies of peace and calmness of our people fired rockets on residential areas of that city for three consecutive days and attacked the city from four sides with the help of foreign advisers. The extremists wanted to disrupt peace and security in villages, districts, sub-districts and cities of the province, set public properties on fire and plunder it, but the real defenders of the country and people resisted courageously against their barbarous attacks and foiled their evil plots.

During the three day long war in Mehtarlam all residents of Laghman took arms and along with the Armed Forces crushed the enemies of peace in that city.

Because the people of Laghman are aware of their crimes against defenceless people and will never forget the barbarism of the extremists in Kowt-e 'Ashrow, Konduz and Konar.

The heroic resistance of the Armed Forces and residents of Mehtarlam have proved once again that the armed forces of the RA are capable to defend the country and not let the war-mongering extremists to play with the life of the people.

Military, Rebel Action; Internecine Clashes

LD2112182888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 20 BAKHTAR—The Armed Forces of Afghanistan for the ensurance of peace and security in the country carried out mopping operations today as a result in some provinces of which heavy losses, both in human and material, were inflicted to the enemy, an authorised military source said in an interview with a BAKHTAR correspondent here.

Tens of extremists were either killed or wounded and large quantities of the enemy's arms and ammunitions were destroyed.

During the operations of the Armed Forces in Herat, Farah and Zabol Provinces, tens of extremists were killed and scores of them wounded.

Ten sets of ground to ground rocket launchers, and three mortars, three arms depopts and an assorted of heavy and light armaments of the extremists were destroyed and seven rounds of ground to ground rockets fell to the hand of the Armed Forces as well.

The extremists supported by Pakistan and US attacked the Ghosta [name as received] District, Nangarhar Province, with heavy armaments today. During the retaliatory attack of the Armed Forces of the country 47 extremists of the Khalis group was killed and 27 others wounded.

Also, twenty seven extremists of the Khalis group and two of its ringleaders were killed in a car explosion engineered by the members of the Jamityat group in Parvan Province today.

According to another report the criminal extremists attacked Lowgar Province by long-ranged US rockets. A number of residential houses were demolished and several others damaged as a result of the attack.

Internal differences among the extremist rival groups which resulted to bloody clashes between the Gulbuddin, Rabbani, Shaikha Asef, Saiaf [last two names as received] and Mawlawi Nabi extremist groups in Zabol, Herat, Baghlan, Paktia, Faryab and Seamangan Provinces resulted to the killing of 34 extremists and wounding of forty one extremists.

Military Plane Reported Downed Near Gardeyz

Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have reportedly carried out successful operations against the Kabul regime troops in various parts of the country. In Paktia Province, the mujahidin shot down a military aircraft near Gardeyz town, killing about 25 military personnel on board the plane. In a mujahidin attack on (Sadtarang) Town, at least 10 Kabul soldiers were killed.

In Qandahar Province, the mujahidin attacked Qandahar Airport with rockets last week, destroying a plane and two radio sets. They also reportedly attacked (Hasht Rangat) area in Laghman Province and a military post in (Khunjab), inflicting heavy casualties on Kabul forces.

Protest Notes Submitted to UNGOMAP

Note No 157

LD2112164388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0530 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 20, BAKHTAR—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan reports that 157th notes of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan Government from the Geneva accords was submitted the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan "UNGOMAP" here today.

The notes underlined 26 instances of violations by Pakistan of the Article No 7, Document No 4 of the Geneva agreements and asks the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and convey the findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and UN secretary general's representative.

Note No 158

LD2212093688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0510 GMT 22 DEC 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 21, BAKHTAR—The one hundred fifty eighth notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

In the notice strict information on flagrant and repeated violations by Pakistan from Article Second, Document Number One of the Geneva Accords are given.

The notice asks UNGOMAP to assess the said violations and convey the results of its findings to the side of the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general.

India

Spokesman on Premadasa Victory in Sri Lanka

BK2112125988 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] India has welcomed the successful completion of presidential elections in Sri Lanka and said it looks forward to working in close cooperation with the president-elect, Mr Premadasa, to further improve bilateral relations.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the poll verdict on Monday reflected the democratic expression of the wishes of the Sri Lankan people.

Commentary on Election

BK2112113288 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Commentary by S. Vishwam: "Verdict in Sri Lanka"]

[Text] For the people of the Indian subcontinent, there is much to be pleased over the outcome of the presidential elections in Sri Lanka. The victory of Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa of the ruling United National Party will be seen as marking a continuity of the government.

Given the circumstances under which the presidential elections were held and the atmosphere of terror and intimidation that was sought to be unleashed before the polls, there is reason for satisfaction that the voting was held at all.

Secondly, the surprisingly large turnout of voters defying a threat by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] that it would shoot people who voted, has shown that the Sri Lankan voter hates terrorism and is committed to the democratic process.

It is true, that traditionally the Sri Lanka electorate has always registered higher turnouts at the polls, often exceeding 80 percent. Considering that nearly 56 percent of their 9.4 million registered voters participated in the polls, lakhs of them in areas where the Sinhalese-JVP extremists were active, the outcome demonstrates the commitment of the people of the island republic to democracy.

Mr Premadasa won 50.43 percent of the vote, while his immediate rival, the former prime minister and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party nominee, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, won 44.9 percent and the third candidate, Mr Abeygoonesekara, a political newcomer sponsored by a coalition of left parties, secured less than 5 percent of the total votes.

The entry of the third candidate seems to have cost Mrs Bandaranaike many votes, which might have gone to her in a straight contest.

However, Mr Premadasa's vote bank appears to have stretched not only from the traditional Sinhalese supporters of the UNP, but also to large sections of Tamils in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. In central Sri Lanka, the Tamil plantation voters, supporters of Mr Thondaman, also backed Mr Premadasa heavily.

On the eve of polls the Sri Lankan Government issued a notification laying down maximum penalties to ensure the freedom to vote. A government statement said the minimum sentence for attempts to force people not to vote would be 10 years in jail and death sentence would be maximum penalty.

Shortly before the official result was announced the outgoing president, 88-year old Junius R. Jayewardene, dissolved the 11-year old Parliament, called for general elections for 15 February and placed the entire nation under curfew to prevent post-poll violence. This action was expected for Mr Jayewardene, who has announced he would retire from public life—had declared his intention to do so some days ago.

The unfortunate aspect of the polls was that the JVP threats combined with attacks on polling stations and presiding officers left at least 16 people dead a day before the elections. The Jayewardene government has been the target of JVP extremist violence for the last several months.

Mr Premadasa had made no secret of his opposition to the presence of IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force]. His campaign platform was also built on promises to ask the IPKF to leave the island immediately and to jettison the India-Sri Lanka agreement. It is too early to speculate on whether or not Mr Premadasa will carry out his intentions after he assumes office on 2 January.

No doubt the election of Mr Premadasa introduced a new dimension to Indo-Sri Lankan relations, which were proceeding on certain lines under the stewardship of Mr Jayewardene. In the light of the new political development, the bilateral relations will certainly come in for a review.

India has often made it clear in the past that the IPKF went to Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Sri Lankan president and the duration of its stay will depend entirely on the Sri Lankan Government.

In reassessing the situation after he assumes office, it is reasonable to expect that Premadasa will take into account the threats to his country's unity and integrity from both JVP and Tamil extremism.

Both India and Sri Lanka are naturally interested in cooperating and preserving regional peace and stability, which could be jeopardized by unstable conditions in any one part of the region.

By turning out in large numbers at the polling booth and voting in a decisive victory, the Sri Lankan electorate has demonstrated its desire for stability and continuity at the governmental level, and it must be assumed that Mr Premadasa will shape his country's relations with India bearing this vital factor in mind.

As Mr Premadasa enters his new office, India would wish him well and offer him the same degree of cooperation it did to his predecessor in helping to preserve Sri Lankan unity, integrity and independence.

Tibetan Exiles 'Shocked' Over Gandhi Policy

BK2112124588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1133 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 21 (AFP)—Tibetan exiles pledged to pursue independence Wednesday in a strong reaction to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's reassurances to China that India recognised their homeland as Chinese territory.

The Tibetan parliament-in-exile said it was "shocked and disheartened" at Mr. Gandhi's reiteration of India's policy of non-interference in Tibetan affairs.

"India's stand on Tibet contradicts the historical facts of Tibet, a buffer state between India and China prior to the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1949," the Assembly of Tibetan People's deputies said.

"Tibet had never been a part of China and six million Tibetan people have never accepted Chinese colonial rule of Tibet," the assembly said in a statement released here.

At meetings with Chinese Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun in Beijing on Tuesday, Mr. Gandhi asserted that Tibet was a Chinese autonomous region and that what happened there was Beijing's internal affair.

He reportedly assured Beijing that New Delhi would prohibit political activity on Indian soil directed against China, which in turn praised his "principled stand."

The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual and temporal leader, has lived in exile in India since fleeing his homeland with an estimated 100,000 followers after an abortive 1959 uprising against Chinese rule.

The Tibetan parliament-in-exile, based in the northern Himalayan town of Dharamsala, sent a telegram to Mr. Gandhi Wednesday expresssing "dismay and resentment" at his statements.

"Tibetan people both in and outside Tibet will continue our struggle till we achieve our cherished goal (of independence)," the telegram added.

The Dalai Lama is accepted in India as a religious figure, but not as the representative of a government in exile, observers noted.

The Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) called Mr. Gandhi's stand a "political kowtow to his Chinese hosts." In a strongly-worded statement it asked the Indian electorate to reject him in general elections due in December 1989.

Mr. Gandhi's trip is the first to China by an Indian premier in 34 years and is aimed at re-establishing a top-level dialogue to pave the way for settling a long-standing border dispute.

Tibet was the scene of a brief but fierce Sino-Indian border war in 1962.

"We hold that Rajiv Gandhi's stand on Tibet as an internal affair of China is not just a cowardly compromise of the principles of self-determination and freedom that India supports in other parts of the world, but that it amounts to a betrayal of India," the TYC said.

If Tibet was indeed a part of China, Indian areas which Beijing claims would then be construed as belonging to China, it said.

"We must not forget that China's claims to these areas are only based on Tibet's historical control of these territories," the TYC said, adding that New Delhi's stand had serious long-term implications for India's security.

"It is not so simple as merely selling a helpless people."

"We call upon the Indian electorate to demonstrate their rejection of this selling of Tibet for the second time by rejecting Rajiv Gandhi in the next elections," the TYC said.

Observers noted that it was one of the strongest statements by a Tibetan organisation on India's stand and reflected what TYC Joint Secretary Tashi Phuntsok called their "growing resentment and disillusionment."

He said Mr. Gandhi had no right to decide "our fate."

Czech Diplomat Missing; Report Filed With Police

BK2112141888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1340 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 21 (AFP)—A Czechoslovak diplomat here has been missing for the past five days, police said Wednesday.

First Secretary Vlastimil Ludvik, 38, has not been [seen] since he left for an appointment with a friend Friday, a police spokesman said.

The Czechoslovak Embassy lodged a complaint with the police on Saturday, he said. The diplomat's car was found parked outside a luxury hotel in south Delhi Monday with his driving license and identity papers, the spokesman added.

Police all over the country have been alerted to look out for the missing diplomat, who was described as 180 centimeters (6ft) tall, well-built and with black hair.

He was wearing a blue suit when he left the embassy at 6:00 p.m. local time Friday (1230 GMT) saying he had an appointment with a friend, the police spokesman said.

Mr. Ludvik, who drove to his appointment alone, held a diplomatic passport issued to him at Prague in June 1987.

Embassy spokesmen could not immediately be reached for more information about the official.

Defection 'Cannot Be Ruled Out'

BK2212083788 Hong Kong AFP in English 0800 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 22 (AFP)—Investigators are looking into the possibility that a Czechoslovak diplomat who has been missing for six days may have defected to the West, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Thursday.

First Secretary Vlastimil Ludvik, 38, has been missing since he left the Czechoslovak Embassy here alone Friday to keep an appointment with a friend.

A senior police officer said Thursday that no clues had surfaced in efforts to trace Mr. Ludvik. Deputy Commissioner of Police V. Rajagopal said police were pursuing a search and were on a country-wide alert for Mr. Ludvik.

Police were on alert at all points of exit out of New Delhi, including the airport and the railway station.

"All angles are being looked into and the possibility of Mr. Ludvik defecting to a Western country cannot be ruled out," PTI quoted unidentified official sources as saying.

The news agency said the diplomat's wife and two children had been sent back to Czechoslovakia, but this could not immediately be confirmed.

An Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman declined comment on newspaper reports which drew parallels between Mr. Ludvik's disappearance and the defection of two Soviet officials in recent years.

"The case is still under investigation," the spokesman said. "We cannot say anything further at this stage."

Five years ago a Soviet Embassy official disappeared and later was found to have defected to the United States. A Soviet scientist here as a tourist last year sought asylum from the Australian High Commission which was granted.

A Czechoslovak Embassy official said the mission was in close touch with the Indian Government on investigations into Mr. Ludvik's disappearance, but refused to give further details.

Mr. Ludvik, described as 180 centimeters (6ft) tall, well-built and black-haired, has not been seen since he left the Czecholovak Embassy Friday evening saying he had a dinner appointment with a friend.

The embassy lodged a missing person's report with the police Saturday, but could give no details about Mr. Ludvik's friend or where they were to meet for dinner, Mr. Rajagopal said.

Mr. Ludvik's car with diplomatic license plates was found Monday parked outside the Hyatt Regency Hotel in south Delhi. His driving license and identity papers were found inside the car.

Iran

Khamene'i on Reducing U.S., Soviet Influence

LD2112180788 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i said today that if governments ruling Muslim and Third World countries come to term with their people, they can cut U.S. and Soviet influence on their states.

Superpower ambassadors in most world countries speak with an air of arrogance even to that country's president, but thanks to the Islamic revolution, "Iran does not even want to receive superpower heads," added Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i.

He said, Iran is not richer than other rich countries nor has more weapons and propaganda facilities, but the point is "neither it bows before these powers nor does it consider necessary to accept their opinions, thanks to the people's support for officials."

Referring to the country's astute diplomacy on the world scene, Khamene'i quoted observers as believing that the Islamic Republic's international prestige has soared significantly as of late.

"We should take advantage from the war's end and try to cement the Islamic Republic's pillars, but at the same time we should keep our alertness and strengthen our borders against possible attacks of this (Iraqi) or any another enemy," he stressed.

The president was addressing a gathering of visitors who were here to deliver their donations towards the war fronts.

Caution Urged in Expanding Ties With USSR

WA2212170188 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 17 Nov p 8

[Text] In the past few days a series of meetings and negotiations took place between Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, and some high-ranking Iranian officials. It appears that the incentive behind political moves by Moscow in the past few months has been rather attempts to disrupt the political balance.

The once warm Tehran-Moscow relations would envisage thee possibility of signing even strategic defense agreements and very extensive relations between the two nations. But with the complex Soviet policies of the past six months, the idea that one can never rely upon strategic ties with Kremlin leaders is once again bolstered.

Of course in their meetings with Soviet officials Tehran leaders, including Majles Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, have expressed a positive and serious views in line with the policy of expanding relations with neighboring countries. But some information, although not yet confirmed by reliable sources, is indicative of a lack of goodwill on the part of Soviets in their position takings.

However, realistic assertions of the Soviet first deputy foreign minister in the meeting with Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the effect tht Moscow has made many mistakes in recent decades should not go unheeded. Such an admission may be looked upon positively for the future of the two countries' ties.

But the existing imbalance in the two nations' relations can be attributed to Moscow's dispatch to Iraq of Scud-B missiles. The move did a lot in causing concern and indignation among the Tehran leaders.

And today another piece of disappointing news has been unearthed. Reports have reached Tehran that Moscow is supplying the terrorist group, the MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq], with military and intelligence aids.

Also recently some political circles here have claimed that Soviet-linked elements have been traced in insurgency-related moves among some Baluchi groups in Iran.

It should, however, be borne in mind that our foreign policy strategy includes unchangeable principles which have to be met by those who have good relations with us.

As such although concern about Soviet moves should not be overblown we should at any rate be more cautious in expanding politico-economic ties with the Soviet Union.

Paper Examines Issue of Choosing President

WA2212170288 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 17 Nov 88 p 8

[Text] While President Khamene'i's term of office will expire in about 10 months, many domestic religio-political wings are bracing to participate actively in the fourth presidential elections in the country.

Meanwhile attempts are being made to bring closer the two existing religio-political wings in the country. These attempts, however, appear not to have been geared towards the selection of a joint candidate for presidency.

Some political circles in the country view the imam's appointment of Majles Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the Armed Forces acting commander-in-chief as a sure sign of the Imam's support for him to become the country's next president.

Furthermore, there has been all the indication in the last six months that the third Majles, under the direction of Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, has adopted a policy more in line with policies of the wing known as Jam'e-ye Ruhanyat-e Mobarez (Militant Clergy Association).

As such it appears that the backing of this wing plus the majority of votes from the wing plus the majority of votes from the wing Jame'-ye Ruhanyun-e Mobarez (Militant Ulema Association), will be able to set the grounds for Hashemi-Rafsanjani's election to the post of presidency.

However, the nomination of a candidate enjoying the full support of the Militant Ulema Association cannot altogether be ruled out. It is against this backdrop that circles close to this political wing regard Vice-Speaker Karrubi's candidacy a possibility.

But the important issue that can be taken up for discussion is the consolidation of the two posts of presidency and premiership. A review of the functions of the three previous presidents of the country renders such move inevitable.

By so doing, hopes can be pinned down on further systematizationn of the executive power and the removal of any existing discrepancies. This issue, of course, calls for an over-all discussion from various angles. The adoption of such a mechanism for the future of the country will necessitate the taking of legal stepsin terms of the constitution or the support of the leadership.

It seems the consolidation of the two posts will in all likelihood give the executive power the integrity it needs keeping it away from the disadvantages of two differing views as may be held by the president and the premier. Indeed, the present situation of the country calls for such a unification in order to secure a better management of affairs.

If we trace back the economic and political ills of the country in the first decade of the revolution we cannot indeed remain indifferent to such a wide chasm in the nation's executive power.

In our view time calls for the unification of these two offices. The future president will have a much better position in running the nation's affairs.

Iraq 'Building Up' Arsenal, Obstructing Talks

LD2112183388 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA--Iraq has signed a contract with the Soviet Union for purchase of an unidentified number of S.U.-24 Sukhoi fighters. The purchase makes Iraq second customers of the fighters, next to Syria.

The Indian news agency 'UNITED NEWS' recently reported that the Iraqi regime in a bid to further equip its Army and the Air Force in particular, will receive the second Soviet-made advanced MiG-29 fighters shortly. The contract for the purchase was signed some time ago between Moscow and Baghdad.

In a related development the Gulf agency recently reported that Iraqi and Egyptian delegations have negotiated with France assembling of French-made Mirage-2000 fighters in Iraq. It said that France agreed to manufacture certain parts of the fighters and assemble them in a complex outside Baghdad with assistance of Egyptian experts.

Meanwhile Iraq has been negotiating purchase of arms from other European and Latin American countries.

While building up its arsenal, the Baghdad regime through various means is obstructing the U.N.-sponsored Tehran-Baghdad peace talks and preventing implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war.

Iraqi regime's building up of its arsenal, its hindering of peace talks in the course of the three rounds of talks held so far, its repeated violations of cease-fire, and delaying withdrawal of its forces from the Iranian territories are all indicative of the ill-nature of a regime which is the source of problem in the region.

Tax Bill Designed to Alter Goods Distribution

LD2112181488 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—A new tax bill aimed at distancing the private sector from the booming service industry was approved in its first reading by Majles deputies Wednesday.

Finance and Commerce Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani said the bill would target those who were in the distribution business, especially of "luxury goods."

"The virtue of this bill is that it aims for a more sound economy and a more sound distribution system and to prevent hidden dealings," he said.

Iravani noted that the bill would allow tax officials to demand receipt from traders in this sector and this would enable to base the tax on an organized income.

"It would help the Finance Ministry a great deal in pinpointing the income of the various businesses" in the service industry, he added.

The bill, introduced by the government, will now be studied and posibly amended in relevant Majles committees before being discussed in detail for approval in the full Majles. It would then have to pass through the Council of Guardians.

After Iraq's war against Iran many businessmen turned to the highly profitable trading of scarce goods and similar activities rather than risking their money on long-term industrial projects.

The daily ETTELA'AT in a commentary supported the bill saying it would be "an important and effective step" towards reducing the private sector's vast cash flow and decreasing the government's reliance on domestic borrowing.

Meanwhile in pre-agenda speeches Majles deputies continued their debate on Article 142 of the Constitution.

A bill proposed by a number of deputies based on the article which calls for monitoring of high government officials' income was rejected in Sunday's Majles session.

Deputy from Tehran Mohammad Reza Bahonar said the failure of the bill would had an "undesirable" effect on the people and to make up for it a new bill should be prepared not only look into the financial record of the officials but also of the businessmen who "usually have huge incomes."

Funds Allocated for Kordestan Reconstruction
LD2112182288 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—A credit of rials 3.5 billion (dlrs 52.2 mn) has been set aside by central headquarters for the reconstruction of war-damaged areas in Kordestan Province.

The amount is about ten times more than the previous budget allocated to this end and would be spent during the last quarter of the current year (ends 20 March'89).

Provincial reconstruction officials said an estimated 12,000 homes and 2,284 businesses were destroyed in the course of Iraqi imposed war.

The total damage inflicted on the province as a result of the conflict has been put at rials 90 billion (dlrs 1.34 bn).

Torrential Rains Flood Tremor-Prone Area
LD2112174288 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Dec. 21, IRNA—Torrential rains flooded the Nurabad District and nearby villages around the quake prone town of Mamasani, northwest of here.

A record 57 mm of rainfall has been registered in the area since Monday and according to last reports it was still pouring heavily in Mamasani, which has felt over 300 tremors of varying degrees for the past few months.

Meanwhile, the Shiraz-Ahvaz road was declared open today afternoon after eight hours under flood waters. Relief teams are repairing rural dikes and clearing nearby roads.

Foundation Exhibits Seized Royal Documents
LD2112185088 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—Cultural Studies and Research Institute of Mostazafan [name as received] Foundation has gathered for display "tens of thousands" of documents seized after the revolution in royal palaces and homes of families close to the Pahlavi regime.

Head of the institute, who was not named, told the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI today that a major part of the documents covered the private and social ties of the royal court, Zionist and Baha'i organizations as well as freemasons.

One financial record dating February 1978 showed that then Crown Prince Reza received rials 6 million (about dlrs 100,000), the queen mother rials 9 million, the "royal commission" rials 43.5 million, and Princess Ashraf (shah's twin sister) rials 10 million a month.

The institute started its activity last year and has so far gathered and classified some 4,000 "sacks" of documents and the oldest so far belongs to the tenth Hejira century when Safavid Tahmasb the First, ruled Iran in the 16th Century. [sentence as received]

The collection also includes priceless manuscripts which the foundation donated to the Imam Reza (A.S.) library in Mashhad.

Some 1.5 million pieces of photographs and slides are also being classified which show "the depth of corruption and wickedness of the defunct regime of Pahlavi."

The documents represent foreign interventions in the internal affairs of Iran, as well as the domination of multi-national companies over the economy, the official said.

Changes in Foreign Ministry Predicted

TA2112191188 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] According to our fellow strugglers in Tehran, within the framework of large-scale changes in the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry, Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, deputy for Afro-Arab Affairs, will be appointed ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Naseri, Islamic Republic ambassador to the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, will be appointed ambassador to Britain. Kazempur Ardebili will be transferred from the National Oil Company to the Foreign Ministry and appointed deputy for international affairs.

Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, the present deputy for international affairs, will go to Saudi Arabia as ambassador after the renewal of diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic.

Pakistan

Bhutto Approves SAARC Summit Arrangements

BK2112114888 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Final arrangements for the SAARC summit have been approved by the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, at a high-level meeting in Islamabad. The summit is to be held in the federal capital from the 29th of this month.

A Foreign Office spokesman said today that during their 3-day deliberations, the heads of state and government will review the progress and achievements so far made and lay down future guidelines.

The secretary general of SAARC, Mr Abul Ahsan, has said preparatory meetings for the summit will begin on Friday [23 December]. Talking to newsmen in Lahore today, he said the summit will be of special significance in view of the leading role being played by Pakistan in the establishment and subsequent process of strengthening the organization.

Bhutto, Gandhi To Meet Following SAARC Summit

BK2112162088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will hold detailed talks on all issues relating to Pakistan-India relations during the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, summit [29-31 December].

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the Indian prime minister, at the invitation of the Pakistani premier, will extend his stay in Islamabad by a few hours on the last day of the summit conference. The dialogue between the two leaders will expedite the pace of the process of normalizing relations between the two countries.

Although there is no fixed agenda for the talks, the two leaders can exchange views on any subject that may help in the process of normalizing relations.

Afghanistan Membership in SAARC 'Ruled Out'

BK2112130688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 21 (AFP)—Pakistan Wednesday ruled out the possibility of Afghanistan joining the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

A Foreign Office spokesman here said Afghanistan's request for membership of the seven-nation body would not be discussed at the SAARC summit being hosted by Pakistan here next week.

Afghanistan's Soviet-backed regime tried in vain last year to join the four-year old economic grouping which includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

On Kabul's request backed by New Delhi, the Kathmandu summit last year set up a foreign ministers committee which the official said had recommended that new members be admitted "only on unanimity" of heads of state or government.

The SAARC remained divided on the issue as a result of Pakistan's opposition.

The official said Pakistan had the "best of feelings for the Afghan people," but a request for SAARC membership could only be considered if it came from a representative government in Afghanistan.

The official welcomed the recently held direct dialogue between mujahidin guerrilla leaders and Soviet Government representatives on a comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan issue created by the Soviet armed intervention in 1979. He believed the talks could lead to the establishment of a broad-based government in Kabul.

Replying to a question, the official said Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has agreed to extend his stay by some hours beyond the summit on his Pakistani counterpart Benazir Bhutto's invitation to discuss the whole gamut of issues on the two countries' relations, marred by three wars in the past 40 years.

The bilateral discussions during and after the three-day summit "could give a new impetus to the process of normalisation" of relations between the two countries, he said.

There is no fixed agenda for the Bhutto-Gandhi meeting, which would be their first since her assuming office at the beginning of this month, but he said "we hope extensive and wide ranging discussions on substantive issues will take place."

Spokesman Welcomes Soviet-Mujahidin Dialogue

BK2212085888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed the dialogue between Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet Union.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad yesterday described the dialogue as a positive step. He said Pakistan desires a comprehensive settlement of the Afghan problem, and the formation of a broad-based government in Kabul in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Afghan people is the only solution to the Afghan tangle.

The spokesman said the mujahidin leaders and the Soviet officials have already met in Al-Ta'if where they had agreed to hold talks in Pakistan, but no date has yet been fixed for that.

Answering a question, the spokesman said he has no information that Vorontsov, the Soviet ambassador in Kabul, has arrived for talks with Afghan mujahidin leaders.

USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Greets Ishaq Khan

BK2212093188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has congratulated Ghulam Ishaq Khan on his election as president of Pakistan. In its message, the presidium has expressed the hope that Pakistani-Soviet relations will grow further and international peace will be strengthened under Ishaq Khan's leadership.

Baluchistan Acting Chief Minister Sworn In

BK2212154288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1515 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] A message just received says that retired Justice Khuda Bux Marri was sworn in the as acting chief minister of Baluchistan in Karachi this evening [22 December].

Paper Criticizes Expulsion of Diplomats by India

BK2212030288 Lahore JANG in Urdu 3 Dec 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Violence on Pakistani Diplomats"]

[Text] India's inhuman behavior toward two Pakistani diplomats, military attache Brigadier Abbasi and diplomat Ashraf—as evidenced by their beatings, the baseless, completely absurd allegations of espionage against them, and the declaration of them as persona non grata and orders for them to leave India—does, in fact, reflect the trickery, deception, and duplicity of the Hindu mentality, which aims to impair relations between the two countries at the very moment a new government has assumed office in Pakistan as a result of a transfer of power.

The Indian Government similarly beat a Pakistani diplomat in Delhi earlier. The details given by Pakistani military attache Brigadier Abbasi on the entire shameful episode leave no room for any doubt that it was a preplanned conspiracy.

The presence of attackers in the hotel, the videotaping of the Pakistani diplomats being beaten, and the presence of Indian intelligence personnel point to the fact that it was a conspiracy hatched by the Indian Government against the Pakistani diplomats.

The beatings of the Pakistani diplomats even after they identified themselves shows that the Indian Government is not only devoid of [respect for] diplomatic norms, but that it intends to malign Pakistan by leveling espionage charges against the Pakistani diplomats.

What India wants is, as Brigadier Abbasi said, to sabotage the SAARC conference [to be held in Islamabad 29-31 December]. It is satisfactory to note that the Pakistani Government has taken serious notice of this display of Hindu mentality and asked two Indian diplomats to leave the country within 24 hours of declaring them persona non grata. This step by Pakistan is appropriate in every respect.

The Government of Pakistan should not avoid raising this issue at the SAARC conference. Pakistan should attach no importance to to the possiblity the Indian prime minister will try to avoid visiting Pakistan. This is a matter of national dignity and the government should make it clear to India that such a shameful step itself has inherent dangerous consequences.

Sri Lanka

AFP: Analysts on Presidential Election Outcome

BK2112122588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 21 Dec 88

[By Michele Cooper]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 21 (AFP)—In electing Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa as the country's next president, Sri Lankans were voting for political and economic order, analysts here said Wednesday.

Many feared that Mr. Premadasa's main opponent, former Premier Sirimavo Bandaranaike, would—despite promises to the contrary—return to the economic policies she followed in the early 1970s and which resulted in food and other shortages.

Analysts said voters also apparently felt that, while Mr. Premadasa's United National Party (UNP) had not solved the terrorist problem, it had taken a relatively firmer stand on the issue than had Mrs. Bandaranaike's government.

"Many voted for Mr. Premadasa not because they really wanted him, but because they were afraid of upheaval should Mrs. Bandaranaike return to power," one analyst said.

"They remember what happened before, how the government was always changing its policy under Mrs. Bandaranaike," he said.

A promise of an enhanced relief package for the some seven million people earning less than 10 dollars a month played a decisive role in the vote as well, analysts said.

A local political observer said that if Mr. Premadasa scored well in some parts of the south, which were considered Bandaranaike strongholds, it was due to the votes of the poor.

"The UNP government has done a lot for the little man. He is better off now than before, and he thinks he can do even better," another said.

Mr. Premadasa himself gave equal stress to eradicating terrorism and poverty in an address Tuesday after his victory was proclaimed.

"We fought hard," he told supporters. "Let us now fight harder to defeat fear and poverty."

The pro-government privately-owned daily SUN said Wednesday in an editorial that the president-elect faced Herculean tasks.

"His mandate endorsed by the people last Monday is, firstly to restore peace and normalcy that this nation years for; secondly, to provide the infrastructure that could improve the nation's economy, alleviate the rampant poverty and malnutrition that now grip this people and lead us on to a better and broader future."

The pro-opposition daily THE ISLAND wished Mr. Premadasa well in his new post, remarking: "Obviously, the people of Sri Lanka have opted for continuity with a change at the top."

The paper—of which the premier had said during the campaign that he would propose to turn its premises into a public swimming pool—also noted that Mr. Premadasa's rise from humble beginnings "should contribute greatly to making Sri Lanka a more democratic, egalitarian and open society."

There were early signs of restored confidence, or at least cautious optimism, among members of the public after the results of the election were proclaimed the evening before.

Shops had remained closed and streets deserted Tuesday, the day after the vote, although it was to have been a normal working day.

On Wednesday, the majority of shops reopened and Colombo returned to the normal bustle of heavy traffic and pedestrians going about their business under the tropical sun.

"The situation seems to be under control and things are getting back into shape. Life in the provinces is slowly returning to normal and the city (Colombo) is busy as usual," a military spokesman said.

He said there had been no major incidents reported after results of the presidential ballot were announced Tuesday, although analysts cautioned this did not necessarily mean an end to the years of unrest.

Government Spokesman Says Situation Quiet

BK2212064088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0638 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Dec 22 (AFP)—Life in strife-torn Sri Lanka was limping back to normal with no politically-motivated killings reported since the new president was announced, a government spokesman said Thursday [22 December].

Essential services in the capital and immediate suburbs, hit by strikes and sporadic rebel attacks before Monday's presidential election, have been fully restored, spokesman Tilak Ratnakara said.

"Other than one killing, which is not polls-related, there has been no violence in the past 48 hours," Mr. Ratnakara said.

He said transport in the provinces and remote villages was improving as pre-election tension throughout the country had eased.

President-elect Ranasinghe Premadasa met Thursday with the three armed services chiefs and Defence Secretary General Sepala Attygalle to review the security situation in the country, officials said.

They quoted Gen. Attygalle as informing Mr. Premadasa that the situation in the country was "almost normal." [passage omitted]

Minister Reports Power Outage

BK2212125288 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1232 GMT 22 Dec 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—No incidents of violence, subversion, or terrorism were reported during the last 48 hours from all over the island, states a government communique issued today.

The communique further states the minister for power and energy, Mr. P. Dayaratna, informs that Gal Oya, Padiyatalawa and Maha Oya are yet plunged in darkness due to Senanayake Samudra waters falling below levels necessary for power generation.

Water has to be conserved for agricultural purposes.

The link to the national power grid damaged by political mischief makers during the pre-election period is now being repaired and supply will be resumed in a few days time.